

Hafa Adai!

New order closes court from physical access, other restrictions. **PAGE 3**
CPA to press ahead with new terminal at Rota airport. **PAGE 6**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

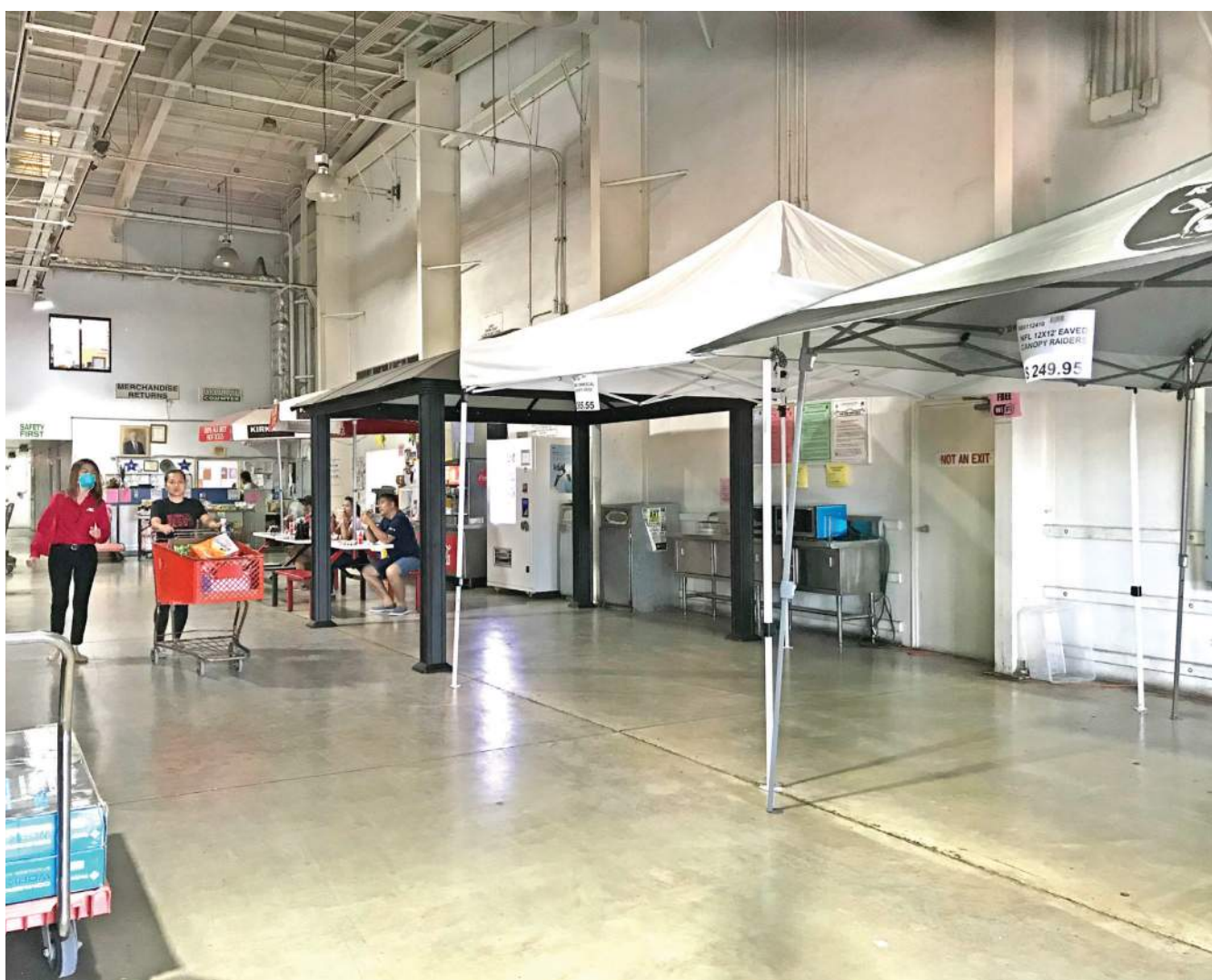
Volume XXX, Issue No. 58

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Business hours: 6am-1pm



SANS CHAIRS AND TABLES

The Joeten Superstore in San Jose has removed its tables and chairs near the exit section to comply with the requirement for people to practice social distancing.

CHEVY KATE ALIPIO

Kanoa Resort tapped as quarantine facility

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Resort has been added to the list of isolation facilities on the island that are being used for the 14-day mandatory

quarantine of all people coming into the CNMI.

Beginning yesterday, all incoming passengers and crew disembarking and arriving into the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport

or CNMI seaports are subject to a more stringent quarantine arrangement following protocols set by the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., with the resort in Susupe being one of the facilities arranged for their

quarantine.

Two more persons tested positive for the novel coronavirus yesterday in Guam, raising the territory's total
See KANOA on Page 4

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Effective today, all businesses are to open their facilities to the public only from 6am to 1pm.

Businesses may continue to operate outside these hours, but no facility will be open to the public and must strictly follow social distancing practices, i.e., no less than 6 feet apart.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

amended yesterday his executive order—his second—adding a directive restricting business operations, in order to limit contacts between people, as a COVID-19 preventative measure, following the growing number of positive cases.

See BUSINESS on Page 4

8 arrested for violating curfew

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has already arrested eight persons as of last weekend, all of them minors who were out past the curfew that was set as a precautionary measure against the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, since

the directive was released last Friday, DPS officers have caught eight minors who did not comply with the curfew laws.

“A few have been caught but, luckily, they were close to their homes. Officers brought them back to their residence and spoke to their parents,” he said.

Pangelinan said the minors
See CURFEW on Page 4

PSS shuts all schools

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will implement online classes—also called “distance education”—as part of precautionary measures to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 and promote social distancing in the CNMI.

According Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada,

classroom instruction will be moved online for the remainder of the school year as part of the CNMI Public School System's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into campuses.

“For the remainder of the
See PSS on Page 4

» Shifts to distance education program

INSIDE



LOCAL

Yonsei Academy students win gold and silver medals at the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

Nearly \$2 trillion rescue package is being eyed, as the coronavirus crisis deepens.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Plácido Domingo announced Sunday that he has tested positive for the coronavirus.

PAGE 19



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Yonsei Academy students claim 8 gold, 5 silver at TMBF

Yonsei Academy students won eight gold medals and five silver medals at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in

Guam last February.

Students that received gold medals are Kate Ishida, 18, Marianas High School;

Grace Li Zhang, 17, MHS; Grace Kim, 15, MHS; Steven Chen, 16, Saipan International School; Eric Lai, 14, Grace

Christian Academy; Ruby Zhang, 16, Agape Christian School; Cherry Lui, ACS; and Abbie Kim, 11, Saipan Com-

munity School.

Students that received silver are Tina Zhen, 15, MHS; Seiyul Hong, 13; SIS, Olivia Hwang, 14 SCS; Nancy Han, 17, ACS; and Jennifer Hart, 9, Brilliant Star School.

Ishida, who is graduating high school this year in June, said, "I have been performing as a soloist in the Tumon Bay Music Festival since the 5th grade, so it was sad going up on that stage for the last time. When I first joined TBMF, I was not a good player compared to other kids my age. But looking back, I realized that I grew so much as a musician every time I came back from the festival."

She also participated in their Young Artists Competition, played in their pit orchestra when they played *Les Misérables*, and joined them on their trip to perform at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

"The music community is very small on Saipan, and I would not be where I am right now if it weren't for TBMF," she added.

This year nine students participated for the first time. Chen, one of those who com-

peted for the first time, said, "I was lucky enough to participate in TBMF. It was my first time to join a music festival. I felt like this competition was challenging for me, but also a good experience."

Hart is the youngest competitor from Yonsei Academy and, despite it being her first time to compete, she still managed to go home with a silver medal.

Yonsei Academy did so well at the music festival this year that academy president Yoon Ji Hye is already preparing more students to participate in next year's music festival.

Yoon, who finished her bachelor's degree in Hamburg, Germany, has been running the Yonsei Academy for four years on Saipan. The music school draws students from different schools on Saipan and has been a regular participant in the Guam music festival.

Yonsei Academy produced the first ever student to be accepted into a music university: Hee Chan Kim, 20. And this year, Ishida got accepted to Bordin Arts & Music College on a full scholarship. *(Chevy Alipio)*



Yonsei Academy students show off the medals and certificates they got after participating at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam last February.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Way donates \$20K to EVMF

A nonprofit worldwide organization has donated \$20,000 to Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation that would be used to provide food for hungry individuals in the CNMI.

EVMF staff Rosie Ajoste thanked United Way Worldwide for the generous donation in a Facebook video she posted last March 17, where she said that United Way helped over 1,000 people in the CNMI community in 2019 and 2020.

Using the United Way donation, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation will be handing out goody bags who seek help from the EVMF center. Each goody bags will have 5 lbs of rice, a can of Spam, a can of Vienna sausage, canned beef stew, and a couple of different varieties of canned tuna in oil. For dessert, they'll be giving out canned corn and pineapple slices.

"We did the video as a thank you to United Way at the end of the current cycle, which just happened to coincide with the COVID-19 [pandemic]. Huge coincidence. But we need community support [such as] food donations from suppliers and grocers and monetary donations for operating expenses such as rent, utilities, and communications. We are inviting individuals to partner with us for a minimum dona-

tion of \$20/month to keep us afloat. Just 50 partners could pay our rent and monthly utilities," said Ajoste.

EVMF is currently closed, but they are still receiving requests for food. They are unable to distribute food until they receive donations.

Ajoste said EVMF can be reached through its Facebook page, Facebook Messenger, or by phone at 235-2340 or 286-1570/256-1570.

Recent events that EVMF organized for the benefit of the community were two garage sales last March 7 and March 10. In addition, EVMF also had a thrift store cleanup with assistance from the Mount Carmel School Red Cross Club. They also held a Valentine's Day ball—"Romance in the Marianas"—last Feb. 19 at Saipan World Resort and raised about \$5,000.

The EVMF Outreach Center is located on Middle Road in Gualo Rai across Bali Fashion. For more information, call 235-2340.

United Way is a worldwide movement of nearly 1,800 community-based United Way in more than 40 countries and territories. It advances the common good by focusing on education, income, and health, the building blocks of a good life. *(Krizel Tuazon)*

CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

presents

THE 12TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

OPEN TO ALL NMI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

THE WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE U.S. CAPITOL FOR ONE YEAR

ARTWORK ELIGIBILITY

TWO-DIMENSIONAL*

Paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art, and photographs.

ORIGINAL

In concept, design, and execution.

SUITABLE

For public display.

*Size restrictions apply. Visit sablan.house.gov to view guidelines.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 24, 2020

For more information, call
(670) 323-2647 in Saipan, (670) 433-2647 in Tinian, or (670) 532-2647 in Rota.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.



New order closes court from physical access, other restrictions

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued an order temporarily closing physical access to the public the court, including the clerk's office and the Office of Pretrial and Probation, starting yesterday through April 3.

In the order late Sunday afternoon, Manglona said that access to the court will be available in accordance with procedures. Court employees will be available by telephone and email from 8am until 5pm on Monday through Friday, other than legal holidays, while they are teleworking during this courthouse closure.

Statute of limitations, statutory deadlines, and other required deadlines will not be tolled or excluded during this period unless specifically ordered by the court, she said.

Manglona's new order replaces her previous order last week in response to the developing COVID-19 outbreak, including recent confirmed cases in Guam.

The new order complies with the advisory of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus and to help stop the spread of the virus. The judge also noted that President Donald J. Trump has

declared a national public health emergency.

"In issuing this order, the court has weighed the right of public access to the court against the need to protect the health and safety of the public," Manglona said.

When the court reopens to the public on April 6, Manglona said entry restrictions will remain in effect until otherwise ordered.

She said court security will deny entry into the courthouse the following:

If you have traveled outside the CNMI in the last 14 days;

■ Or if you have had close contact with someone who has traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;

■ Or if you've been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;

■ Or if you've been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ Or if you have had a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, or flu symptoms within the last 72 hours.

Manglona said the entry protocols will be posted at the entrance of the courthouse.

Individuals who are prevented from entering the building will be given contact information of the court and all tenants of the courthouse so that they may attempt to conduct their business by phone or other remote means.

In limiting court proceedings, all civil and criminal

jury selections and jury trials scheduled before April 26 are continued pending further court's order.

All regularly scheduled grand jury proceedings are continued to April 26. However, the U.S. Attorney may schedule grand jury proceedings for emergency or essential matters after consulting with Manglona.

Manglona said to the extent possible, all civil, criminal and bankruptcy hearings will be conducted by telephone or video conference as determined by the presiding judge.

All sentencing and revocation hearings scheduled to be heard on or before April 3 and any related deadlines will be continued until further court's order.

In addition, Manglona said, any previously ordered presentence report due dates during this period are vacated and will be rescheduled.

She said to the extent possible, criminal matters, such as initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings will be conducted by video conference with the defendant's consent.

Due to the court's reduced ability to empanel jurors, Manglona said the time period of the continuances implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act.

She said the court will issue findings in individual cases.

Manglona said the court is

cognizant of the right of criminal defendants to a speedy trial under the 6th Amendment, and the application of that right in cases involving defendants who are detained pending trial.

Manglona said any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an extension to this order to exercise that right should be directed to the judge assigned to the matter.

She postponed all naturalization ceremonies, attorney admissions and other non-case related proceedings.

Manglona said the review and execution of warrants and complaints will be conducted remotely.

On filing and payments, she said all business with the clerk's office should be conducted by telephone and email from 8pm to 5pm on Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

All requests for court documents, including summons, subpoenas and federal records clearances, must be made by email to qclerk@nmid.uscourts.gov or by calling the deputy clerk on duty at 670-237-1200.

Cash/currency will not be accepted during this period of exigent circumstances. Only checks or money orders will be accepted. Criminal debts, miscellaneous fees, or any other payments must be made out to "Clerk, U.S. District Court."

Payments should be mailed to: United States District Court for the NMI P.O. Box 500687

Saipan, MP 96950.

Filings will continue to be processed in all cases via the CM/ECF electronic system, except for case openings and sealed matters.

Email filings will continue to be accepted.

Those who must make in-person filings or payments may call the deputy clerk on duty at 670-237-1200 and will be instructed to leave materials at the dropbox at the courthouse.

In-person filings and payments will only be available from 8am to 12pm on Monday through Friday, except for legal holidays.

All dropped-off materials

must be placed in a sealed envelope and will be received after screening by security. On the outside of the envelope, state the name of the person making the payment or filing, the case number (if applicable), and a contact phone number in case of any questions. Mailed and dropped-off materials may not be processed until three business days after receipt by the court.

For any filings that require immediate attention, contact the deputy clerk on duty at 670-237-1200.

Documents for filing or receipting will have the effective date of receipt by the court, not when processed.

Attempted robbery in San Jose, Saipan

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, at about 6:51am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an injured person at a poker arcade in the village of San Jose on Saipan.

At about 6:54am, police arrived on scene and noticed a female lying on the floor of the cashier booth, moaning in pain. When the officers asked her what had happened, she was unable to answer as she was in severe pain. The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center where she was admitted.

Witnesses at the scene told police that a masked individual had attempted to

gain access into the cashier's booth, and that the person had fled south toward Oleai. The suspect is described as 5'6" or 5'7" tall, dark-complexioned, skinny, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, a pair of tan-colored cargo shorts, a black baseball cap, and a pair of black shoes.

If you or someone you know has any information relating to this crime, call 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (PR)

Minority calls for mandatory shutdown of all social gatherings

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representative minority bloc is calling for a mandatory Commonwealth-wide shutdown of all social get-togethers.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday, the House minority bloc—composed of six representatives—urged the governor to declare a mandatory Commonwealth-wide "lockdown" on all social gatherings in any public venue for at least the next two weeks.

"Despite your emergency declaration and public outreach urging residents to stay home, we continue to receive reports from worried citizens about parties, novenas, cockfights, crowded gaming establishments, [among others]," they said. "We believe that a higher level of enforcement is necessary at this point, and we urge you to take that next step. As soon as possible, we need a mandatory Commonwealth-wide lockdown on social gatherings in any public venue for at least the next two weeks."

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), in a

video stream Sunday evening, said that members of the community are still congregating, gathering for parties, novenas, and cockfighting, despite the government's call for everyone to stay home and practice social distancing.

"We are better than this. We can do better than this. We have to cooperate before our government has to do lockdowns and come in and declare things that we don't want to be done to us. ... We have to protect those that are most vulnerable in this community," Propst said.

Further, the legislators also urged Torres, in the letter, to implement a strict, mandatory quarantine for all incoming travelers, enforceable by fines and penalties, similar to what has been recently ordered by Hawaii's Gov. David Ige, and in accordance with the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act.

The governor recently ordered for a more stringent 14-day quarantine for all travelers coming into the CNMI, which took effect yesterday; violators would be arrested and confined.

The minority also urged

the governor to utilize available technology to make remote participation in all of the administration's meetings possible, in line with the directive to practice of social distancing as issued by Torres under Executive Order 2020-04, and upon advice of public health experts.

Four of the minority members, Propst, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan), attended the governor's recent COVID-19 briefing via a group call, as a conscientious effort to abide by the directives on social distancing. Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) were physically present at the meeting.

"In the spirit of unity, we continue to hope for your favorable response to our requests for greater financial transparency from your administration, and for amendments to your emergency directives in order to expand protections for the Commonwealth's citizens and businesses," the letter said.

The minority's call for amendments to the directives include protecting people from losing their homes, livelihoods, and access to utilities; taxpayers' relief from upcoming deadlines and penalties; and for government employees being called to work, health protection and assurance toward flexibility and access to sick leave if needed to care for themselves and their families.

MARCH SPECIAL!

3BR 2BA & 4BR 2BA
1st Month Rent Free!!!
Free Washer & Dryer
Rent starting
at \$746/mo
Section 8 accepted
Move in ready
CALL TODAY!
588-7746 / 285-4745
ISa Villas 1
Corner of Guguan St.
Anatahan St. Capitol Hill

I ♥ MASSAGE

Special Local Promotion

\$18⁰⁰ Body Massage 60 minutes

\$25⁰⁰ Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes

EFFECTIVE MARCH 24,
WE ARE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

For more information, please
Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang

Located in Beach Road, Susupe, 1st Floor,
Joeten Commercial Bldg. next to Zoom Chicken

We want to keep you connected

NO LATE FEES

We understand that times are tough, so we're suspending late fees. Pay your bill any time within the month.

Visit store.ite.net/onlinebilling or any IT&E store, or call Customer Care at 682-4483 to make payment. Please note that our store hours have changed to 9 am to 1 pm Monday to Friday and we will be closed on weekends.

IT&E

Ada: I am not laying off any teachers

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada has debunked rumors that the Public School System will be laying off employees beginning April 3.

"There's no laying off that's going to happen at this time. I wrote the letter to [Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan (Ind-MP)], but I didn't sign it because

that was a draft. I don't know how it leaked, it was a mistake," he said.

He did admit that PSS is looking at reducing more hours on top of the soon-to-be-implemented 64-hour work schedule.

"There won't be any layoff. I will be writing a letter to all the teachers to clarify that, but we are looking at reducing more hours," he said.

Ada said there might even be an-

other salary reduction for teachers to combat layoffs. He considers layoffs as the worst-case scenario for PSS.

"I'm going to plead with the faculty and staff—better something than nothing. If we have to reduce our salaries halfway, then we will have to do that because it's better than nothing. It's a very difficult time. People's lives are at stake. I'm trying to save everybody; maybe furlough but

not layoff. By furlough I mean you work depending on the availability of funds but you still get to keep your job. Layoff means you are dismissed and if you want to come back you need to reapply. We don't want to layoff or terminate anybody," he said.

Ada explained that this has to happen since PSS is looking at a budget reduction from \$1.3 million bi-weekly to \$750,000.

"Out of the 1,000 employees,

only 200 are federally funded so the remaining 800 are locally funded," he said.

According to a circulating draft of a letter from Ada to the office of Sablan, Ada wrote that PSS was informed that their budget would soon be reduced to zero, which would lead to the termination of thousands of employees.

Ada reportedly wrote the letter to appeal to Camacho to help identify funding for PSS' locally funded staff.

'Anderson, USAO staff should be banned from Guam courthouse'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal public defender asked U.S. District Court for the District of Guam Chief Judge Frances Marie Tydingo-Gatewood yesterday to ban U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Shawn N. Anderson and his staff from the federal courthouse indefinitely until they have undergone the recommended quarantine period.

Alternatively, federal public defender for the District of Guam John T. Gorman and his staff will not appear in the same courtroom with any U.S. Attorney or their staff, until they have undergone quarantine, Gorman said in an email to Tydingco-Gatewood.

"I have an obligation to protect my staff and myself," said Gor-

man, adding that he is confident that Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys will have the same position.

In response, Anderson said there is no legal or medical basis to quarantine him and the entire staff as no U.S. Attorney's Office employee has had personal contact with him since his return to Guam.

Anderson reiterated that he did not travel to any high-risk country as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nor does he have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Anderson did not indicate which country he went to.

He said their office has taken precautionary measures since the outbreak in Guam began. "We even extended these measures to our Saipan office out of an abundance of caution," he said, adding that their office, as well as the entire

Department of Justice, takes the health of their employees seriously.

He said most of their employees are now teleworking from diverse locations on island.

However, Anderson said, they still need to travel to court and their offices when necessary to fulfill their mission.

While the resources of the federal government are currently drained, he said the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to assist law enforcement with investigations and pursue prosecutions in federal courts.

Anderson said they will prioritize cases based on their current resources, in addition to the need of citizens and any threats to national security.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BUSINESS

From Page 1

es in Guam.

According to the governor, discussions with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. indicate that prevention and containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI is an absolute necessity, given the CNMI's limited resources.

"This would be best aided by decreasing the amount of points of interaction and contact the population will have with each other. In this way, a person infected with COVID-19 will have fewer chances to infect other persons," Torres said.

Under the new directive, all businesses that have facilities open to the public shall only be open to the public from 6am to 1pm. Businesses may operate outside of these hours, but may not be open to the general public.

Casinos, video poker establishments, e-gaming facilities, and other businesses engaged in gaming are to operate within these restricted hours as well.

Further, when open to the public, businesses are encouraged to follow

the recommended at least 6 feet social distancing practice.

Modifications and exceptions

Restaurants and bars, or any businesses that offer food or beverages for "on-premises consumption" must suspend such services. These businesses are permitted and encouraged, instead, to serve food and beverages for off-premises consumption, such as through in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-thru, and curbside pick-up.

While customers may enter the premises to buy food or beverages for take-out, the establishments (including food trucks) must ensure that adequate social distancing is observed.

Hotel restaurants may continue to provide room service and take-out. Catering services may continue.

Businesses located in airports or hospital are exempt from this directive.

As far as parks and beaches are concerned, all public parks, including Mañagaha Island and the Grotto, are also closed to the public. Public gatherings on beaches are also not permitted except that individuals, couples,

and their children may exercise or recreate on the beach.

Laundromats, dry-cleaners, and laundry service providers are to conduct their normal business, open to the general public, between 6am to 1pm, but outside those hours, may only conduct drop-off/pick-up service.

Gas stations may remain open and set their own hours, but only for the dispensing of gasoline. The gas station's convenience store is only to be open between 6am to 1pm.

The Commonwealth Health Center, public and private health clinics, dental clinics, and pharmacies may set hours that, in their judgment, best deal with the COVID-19 threat. These facilities and businesses are also encouraged to follow social distancing practices.

CHCC, with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Commerce, Alcohol Beverage & Tobacco Control Division, the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, and any other Commonwealth agency are to enforce this directive.

Violators will be subjected to penalties.

awaiting test results from Guam.

These are individuals who initially fell under the COVID-19 person under investigation criteria defined by the Guam Health Laboratory, who were later found negative for the COVID-19 virus.

The CNMI COVID-19 Task Force has been arranging for temporary isolation facilities for travelers, through the business community, since mid-March, to protect the limited resources of the Commonwealth Health

CURFEW

From Page 1

and their parents were educated about the curfew regulations as ordered by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"We want to educate the public to take this measure seriously. We try our best to educate before we take strict action. We just want the public to be safe and understand the nature and importance of the measure. So far, minors have been compliant and parents have been thankful," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres directed DPS and all CNMI law enforcement officers to strictly enforce the curfew laws for minors throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

This means all minors (persons under the age of 18) must remain indoors from 7pm until 6am.

Pursuant to curfew laws, the only exceptions include minors who are accompanied by their parent, guard-

ian, or an adult, who are in the direct route driving and returning home, or who are lawfully employed during the hours specified.

Under the directive, it is illegal for minors to loiter from 7pm until 6am, in or about any public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, restaurants, cafes and other eateries, or vacant lots and places, in all of the CNMI.

Anyone who violates this directive may be imprisoned for a period not to exceed 30 days, and be made to render up to 250 hours of community service.

Minors found in violation may be cited or arrested and detained, and be subjected to the provisions of the juvenile court law.

The curfew is to remain in effect until the emergency declaration has been lifted or until further notice.

Police officers are directed to enforce these new temporary curfew hours.

PSS

From Page 1

current school year 2019-2020, classroom instructions will be taught through the Distance Education Program. We are expanding our PSS Distance Education Program to allow for all of our 10,000 students to continually avail of our public education services, which was unfortunately disrupted with the growing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic on our small island community," he said.

All schools will remain closed until the COVID-19 threat dies down.

"All of the school district's 20 elementary, middle and high school campuses, and all 10 Head Start and Early Head Start centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will remain closed until it is safe for all students to return," Ada said.

According to him, he and his leadership and management teams will be finalizing the Distance Education Program plan from March 23 to 25.

"This will ensure the seamless integration of actual classroom instruction, by expanding the existing

online programs to cover all content areas (curriculum and instructions). The health and wellbeing of all of our public education stakeholders—our students, teachers, staff and personnel—will always remain paramount in our aggressive work to combat the spread of this fatal COVID-19 virus," Ada said.

A Marianas High School junior who requested anonymity believes it's only right to transfer to online classes since the virus is spreading fast and it's just a matter of time before it reaches the CNMI.

A Saipan Southern High School senior said it's better to continue having actual classes until there really is a confirmed COVID-19 case in the CNMI because many public school students don't have and cannot afford the technology to do online classes.

She added that some students work better with a teacher watching over them, like herself, since it keeps her from procrastinating and it helps her get her work done.

The CNMI PSS Distance Education Program was established nearly 10 years ago. PSS is the first in the Pacific region to develop a curriculum-based online classroom learning.

Those who are transiting to Rota and Tinian are also to be quarantined at a designated hotel, enrolled in the CHCC COVID-19 text-based illness monitoring system, and subject to monitoring and follow-up with CHCC based on surveillance protocols.

The COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC earlier asked the community to respect the individuals as they remain quarantined in the temporary isolation facilities.

KANOA

From Page 1

number of positive cases to 29, and one COVID-19-related death.

According to the Joint Information Center statement issued at 8:30pm, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 37 individuals for COVID-19 on Monday, March 23, with two testing positive and 35 testing negative.

So far, a total of 190 tests have already been performed in Guam from March 12, 2020, through March 23, 2020. To date, a total of 29 cases have tested positive and 161 cases have tested negative for COVID-19, with one death. All 28 remaining confirmed cases are in isolation.

■■■

Kanoa's sister hotel, Century Hotel in Garapan, was earlier used to isolate individuals away from CHCC, while



Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!



MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® SIRLOIN FLAP MEAT STEAK

\$7.99
LB.



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® RIBE EYE STEAK

\$13.49
LB.



CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® BOTTOM ROUND ROAST

\$3.99
LB.



CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS

\$14.95
CASE



ROMAINE LETTUCE 3PK.

\$3.49
PKG.



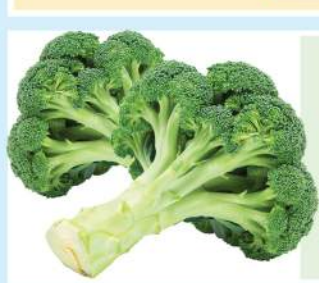
ORANGES (NAVAL)

99¢
LB.



WATERMELONS

\$1.39
LB.



BROCCOLI

\$1.49
LB.



EVERYDAY ESSENTIAL BLOCK CHEESE 180Z. ASSORTED

\$2.99
EA.



OSCAR MAYER BOLOGNA 160Z.

\$2.29
EA.



OLD FASHIONED WHITE BREAD

\$2.99
EA.



EGGS LARGE CARTON

\$2.29
EA.

YOU CAN SHOP, EARN & SAVE!

Customers First!

Rewards Plus!

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store

SIGN UP TODAY IT'S FREE!

ASK US HOW



DABUQUE CANNED HAM

\$9.99
EA.



EVERYDAY ESSENTIAL CANNED TOMATOES 160Z.

\$1.09
EA.



HINODE JASMINE RICE

\$6.99
EA.



ESSENCE SINGLE ROLL TOILET PAPER

69¢
EA.



\$44.95

CRAFTSMAN 2.5GALLON WET/DRY VACUUM

DESK FAN 16"

\$13.95



GRACIOUS TRELLIS LOW BACK STACKABLE PLASTIC CHAIR

\$10.95



SUCASA 36"X80" SECURITY DOOR

\$169.95



\$79.95

RIDE ON MOTORCYCLE (MB0907)



KEEPER FLIP TOP 25L (7GAL) WASTE BIN

\$10.95



BATH TOWEL

\$4.95



MAGIC BULLET EXPRESS 11PC SET

\$59.95



BETTER CHEF 1.7L PLASTIC CORDLESS ELECTRIC KETTLE

\$13.95



\$15.95

BETTER CHEF 6QT NON STICK ALUMINUM DUTCH OVEN RED



\$63.95

IGLOO 60QT ROLLER COOLER

Para i Manamko'

We will be open every **TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY** from 6AM to 7AM, for our manamko' customers (seniors 55 and over).

WE NOW ACCEPT FOOD STAMP FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL: 322-0430

CPA to press ahead with new terminal at Rota airport

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has exempted from austerity measures the Request for Proposals in the Rota Master Concession project that aims to build new international terminal facility on the island.

CPA board Airport Facilities Committee chair Barrie C. Toves told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that exempting the Rota Master Concession RFP project from the austerity measures will ensure that CPA move

forward with the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport plan for new international terminal facilities.

Toves disclosed that a few private investors have already shown interest in partnering with CPA to build the new international terminal building and amenities to facilitate their planned investment ventures on Rota.

"The ports of entry are the most essential infrastructure to our local economy," he said.

Toves said the austerity measures adopted by the board include suspension of all CPA general revenue

funded projects. He said the Rota Master Concession project is one of those general revenue funded projects that he has been working with the board, the Airport Facilities Committee, and CPA team to push through for the potential development and expansion of the island's airport facilities.

He said potential private investors have been waiting for the project's RFP.

Toves is thankful to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds and the board of directors for approving his request to exempt the RFP from the austerity measures.



CABINET MEETING

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres speaks to members of his Cabinet Saturday morning at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill to discuss updates and answer questions concerning measures being taken by the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IVA MAURIN

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Karidat: Hold off on donations for now

Karidat Social Services is asking the community to "hold off" on making clothing and canned food donations at this time. Please no donations at this time, we thank you for your patience. We all must do our part to stay home and stay safe. (PR)

5.4-magnitude quake in NI

A report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 150 kilometers west of Farallon de Pajaros in the Northern Mariana Islands at 11:52pm on March 19, 2020. There are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. (PR)

OVR closed for two weeks

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed for two weeks. All appointments and schedules of meetings and trainings with OVR counselors or staff will be cancelled and rescheduled. Your counselor or caseworker will be contacting you as soon as information regarding the re-opening of the OVR office is received. (PR)

Amended hours at landfill, transfer station

The Solid Waste Management Division is amending the hours of operation of the Marpi landfill & Lower Base transfer station, effective March 23, 2020, until further notice. Both sites will be open

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 7:30am to 11am only. Closed on Wednesday. (PR)

USCIS closing offices to the public March 18-April 1

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is suspending in-person services at its field offices, asylum offices and Application Support Centers. This suspension of services will be effective until at least April 1. In the meantime, USCIS will provide limited emergency services. Call the Contact Center for assistance with emergency services.

USCIS field offices will send notices to applicants and petitioners with scheduled appointments and naturalization ceremonies impacted by this closure. USCIS asylum offices will send interview cancellation notices and automatically reschedule asylum interviews. When the interview is rescheduled, asylum applicants will receive a new interview notice with the new time, date and location of the interview. When USCIS again resumes normal operations, USCIS will automatically reschedule ASC appointments due to the office closure. You will receive a new appointment letter in the mail. Individuals who had InfoPass or other appointments must reschedule through the USCIS Contact Center once field offices are open to the public again. Check to see if your field office has been reopened before reaching out to the USCIS Contact Center. (PR)

AMP amends operations; closes visitor center

The American Memorial Park visitor center is closed until further notice. All educational programs and special events are postponed until further notice. Permits for large gatherings will also not be issued. Visitors may continue to enjoy Micro Beach, the memorials, walking paths, tennis courts and open spaces in the park.

The National Park Service, which runs the park, will notify the public when it resumes full operations and provide updates on its website and social media channels. (PR)

US District Court entry protocols

■ If you have traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;

■ Or if you have had close contact with someone who has traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;

■ Or if you've been asked

to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;

■ Or if you've been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ Or if you have a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, or flu symptoms, within the last 72 hours;

Advise the court security officer prior to entering the screening area. You will be denied entry and provided written instructions on what to do next. (PR)

Settlement Fund to close March 18-20

The Settlement Fund office will be closed until Friday, March 20, 2020, in light of the state of public health emergency and continued state of significant emergency concerning the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fund will resume its operations on March 23, 2020, and will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email between 8am and 5pm, Monday-Friday.

For more information, call (670) 322-3863, fax (670) 664-8080, or email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)

MLSC closed until March 31

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be closed until March 31. While some staff may come in to the office during that time, we will not be open to the public. (PR)

Women's Mini Expo and CNMI Women's Summit postponed

The Annual Women's Mini Expo and the CNMI Women's Summit, scheduled for March 24 and 27, respectively, has been postponed until further notice. For questions or concerns you may have, contact the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office at 233-8978/9411 or cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com. (PR)

JKPL and Bookmobile Outreach Services closed until further notice

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed until further notice. All library materials due during our closure will be waived. All programs and events will be canceled/postponed until further notice. The library recommends that patrons who have overdue materials until such time as the closure is lifted. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
 P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
 Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held via telephone conference at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Covid-19 Assistance
- III. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL'S & INVITATION TO BID FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE GOVERNORS EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-004.

- **DPW20-RFP-004 – ENGINEERING & DESIGN RELATED SERVICES FOR ROUTE 317 (GUALO RAI ROAD) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN**
- **DPW20-RFP-005 – CNMI GOVERNMENT LONG RANGE 20 YEARS HIGHWAY MASTER PLAN**
- **DPW20-ITB-012 – RENOVATION & EXPANSION OF THE TANAPAG YOUTH CENTER BUILDING IN TANAPAG, SAIPAN.**

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
 SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
 DIRECTOR OF DPW/TSD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

AMP amends operations; closes visitor center

The American Memorial Park visitor center is closed until further notice. All educational programs and special events are postponed until further notice. Permits for large gatherings will also not be issued. Visitors may continue to enjoy Micro Beach, the memorials, walking paths, tennis courts and open spaces in the park.

The National Park Service, which runs the park, will notify the public when it resumes full operations and provide updates on its website and social media channels. (PR)

US District Court entry protocols

■ If you have traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;

■ Or if you have had close contact with someone who has traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;

■ Or if you've been asked

CNMI shines in UOG Chamorro language, arts competition

CNMI schools that participated in University of Guam's annual Chamorro Language and Cultural Performing Arts competition were able to take home a total of 24 medals, 10 being in first place.

Jonas M. Barcinas, Public School System's Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program director, praised the students for their exemplary work doing the competition, "for bringing home pride and joy for the CNMI."

Ten CNMI students or groups placed first in various categories of the Chamorro Language and Cultural Performing Arts Competition, which was held on March 9-10 at the University of Guam.

Hopwood Middle School won first place in Middle School Chant Dance.

Other first-place winners from the CNMI include:

■ Dovicanne Tudela, Koblerville Elementary School, K-1 Grade Storytelling. She was coached by Alma

Villagomez.

■ Hopwood Middle School, Middle School Chant. The students were coached by Vic Cabrera, Tracy Del Rosario, Didi and Dominic Tudela, and April Repeki.

■ Hopwood Middle School, Middle School Choral Reading. They were coached by Donald Mendiola and Rebecca Sablan.

■ Heaven Murphy, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Oratory. She was coached by Rose Jones and Ronnie Aguon.

■ Danyana Borja, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Recitation. She was coached by Rose Jones and Ronnie Aguon.

■ Tyara Reann Cruz, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Middle School Essay. She was coached by Rose Jones and Ronnie Aguon.

■ Issa Salazar, Marianas High School, Poetry Recitation. She was coached by Anita Sablan, Alvin Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, and Andrew Santos Sablan.

■ Issa Salazar and Noryanka

Skeirei, Marianas High School, Female Singer. They were coached by Anita Sablan, Alvin Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, and Andrew Santos Sablan.

■ Dawno Jade Manglona Agbayani, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, High School Proficiency. He was coached by Therese Manalang and James Manglona.

■ Dawno Jade Manglona Agbayani, RHI, High School Oratorical/Sinangan. He was coached by Therese Manalang and James Manglona.

The second-place winners were:

■ Marianas High School, Song with Dance. They were

coached by Anita Sablan, Alvin Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, and Andrew Sablan.

■ Marianas High School, Kantan Chamorrita Style singing. They were coached by Anita Sablan, Alvin Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, and Andrew Sablan.

■ Deltona Takai, San Vicente Elementary School, Grade 4-5 Storytelling. Coached by Lorena Smith

■ Jeremy Santos, Tinian Elementary School, Middle School- Oratory. Coach by Angelina Fitial

■ Tinian Elementary School, Choral Reading. Coach by Angelina Fitial

■ Issa Tegita, Dandan Middle School, Oratory Po-

etry Recitation. Coach by Edinna Cepeda.

■ Taking home third place were:

■ Nava Falig, Grade 4-5 Storytelling. Coached by Elsie San Nicolas

■ Doreanne Tudela, Koblerville Elementary School, Grade 2-3 Storytelling. Coached by Lorena Smith

■ Jireh Cruz, Tinian Elementary School, Middle School Recitation. Coached by Angelina Fitial

■ Dandan Middle School, Choral Reading. Coached by Edinna Cepeda

■ Rowena Camacho, Hopwood Middle School, Oratory. Coached by April Repeki, Donald Mendiola and Vic-

tor Cabrera

■ Heaven P. Murphy, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Essay. Coached by Rose Jones and Ronnie Aguon

■ Mark Dave Terlaje Pangelinan Jr., Marianas High School, High School Proficiency. Coached by Anita Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, Andrew Santos Sablan.

■ Pio Nogis, Marianas High School, High School Male Singer. Coached by Anita Sablan, Cynthia Pangelinan, Andrew Santos Sablan.

■ Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Middle School Choral Reading fourth place. Coached by Gloria Rasiang and Maryann Flores. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

Access to Guam military installations

ASAN, Guam—Effective yesterday, March 23, U.S. Naval Base Guam current base access measures changed. These adjustments are in accordance with the Joint Region Marianas directive to take mitigating actions to protect the health of service members, civilians, and families, to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus disease, COVID-19, and to preserve warfighting readiness, while allowing improved access for all authorized personnel.

The installation access policy changes directly align with the Guam government's Public Health Emergency Declaration, which requires maximizing social distancing, limiting unnecessary personal interactions, and observing personal hygiene practices in order to prevent local transmission of COVID-19.

Andersen Air Force Base, due to its unique mission set of maintaining regional security and stability throughout the Indo-Pacific, will continue to maintain a Mission-Essential Personnel 1 access policy Monday through Friday. The 36th Wing remains 100% mission capable and must take necessary measures to preserve readiness.

JRM and 36th Wing leadership continue to re-assess base access policy and will evaluate the feasibility of adjusting access to Andersen AFB amenities, as conditions and operational requirements permit.

Throughout the weekend of March 21-22, social distancing efforts enforced by installation military exchange and Defense Commissary Agency employees were successful in managing in-store capacity limitations, while providing patrons with a safe and clean environment to shop. Although there was an initial

surge in base traffic and some extended lines for entry into commissary and exchange facilities, the wait times subsided by approximately 2:30pm.

The total throughput of visitors to installation stores was similar to that of a normal weekend and shelves remained stocked for patrons' opportunity to purchase goods.

While inside installation exchange and DeCA commissary facilities, and while waiting to enter these facilities, all patrons must adhere to strict social distancing practices and remain no less than six feet away from all other persons to the greatest extent possible. Signs and floor markers have been placed to aid in this practice. This policy will be strictly enforced.

The number of personnel shopping per family should be minimized to the maximum extent possible. Wherever feasible, it is strongly recommended that children should not accompany shoppers. If children do accompany shoppers, parents must ensure children maximize social distancing and prevent unnecessary interactions with other patrons.

Patrons who are experiencing influenza-like symptoms will not be permitted access to exchange and DeCA facilities. These patrons should stay at home or otherwise isolate themselves and telephonically contact appropriate medical authority.

All persons are encouraged to monitor command social media sites for updates:

■ Joint Region Marianas: <https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam/>

■ Naval Base Guam: <https://www.facebook.com/USNavalBaseGuam/>

■ Andersen AF: <https://www.facebook.com/Andersen36WG/> (PR)

HAS THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID CRISIS AFFECTED YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW? YOU COULD BE COMPENSATED FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY.

FILE YOUR CLAIM BY JUNE 30, 2020.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED.
PARA INFORMACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL, VISITE EL SITIO WEB.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

If you think you've been hurt by Purdue Pharma L.P., a U.S. limited partnership, its general partner and its subsidiaries, including Imbrium Therapeutics L.P., Adlon Therapeutics L.P., Greenfield BioVentures L.P., Avrio Health L.P., Rhodes Technologies, and Rhodes Pharmaceuticals L.P. ("Purdue"), or Purdue prescription opioids, like OxyContin®, or other prescription opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue, you can file a claim for compensation in the Purdue bankruptcy proceeding. The deadline to file a claim is **June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.**

WHAT IS A CLAIM AND WHO CAN FILE?

A "claim" means a right to seek payment or other compensation. You must file a Proof of Claim Form so it is actually received by the deadline. It can be filed by you, by a legal guardian, by survivors, or by relatives of people who have died or are disabled. **All Personal Injury Claimant Proof of Claim Forms and any supporting documentation submitted with those forms will be kept highly confidential and will not be made available to the public.** You do not need an attorney to file a proof of claim for you.

Additionally, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures, trusts, governmental units, and Native American Tribes may also file a proof of claim against Purdue.

Go to **PurduePharmaClaims.com** to find a complete list of instructions on how to file a claim. You will also find a list of the opioids produced, marketed or sold by Purdue.

You may file a Proof of Claim even if a settlement is contemplated in the Purdue bankruptcy so that your claim can be considered as part of any settlement.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

If you think you've suffered harm from Purdue or its prescription opioids, you have the right to file a claim even if you may also have received reimbursement from insurance. Examples of claims that may be filed in the Purdue bankruptcy include death, addiction or dependence, lost wages, loss of spousal relationship benefit for things like child-rearing, enjoyment of life, etc., or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (sometimes referred to as "NAS"), among others.

The deadline to file a claim is June 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. If you do not file a claim by the deadline, you will lose the right to file a claim against Purdue, and you will lose any right to seek payment or compensation you may have had. Proof of Claim Forms, a list of opioids produced, marketed or sold by "Purdue," and instructions for how to file a claim are online at **PurduePharmaClaims.com**. You can also request a claim form by mail, email or phone:

Purdue Pharma Claims Processing Center c/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Ste. 412, Brooklyn, NY 11232

Email: purduepharmainfo@primeclerk.com
Phone: 1.844.217.0912

THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION.

Is Purdue out of money? No. For more information concerning Purdue's bankruptcy, Frequently Asked Questions, Proof of Claim Forms, examples of personal injury and other claims that can be filed, instructions on how to file a claim, and important documents including the Bar Date Notice, visit

PurduePharmaClaims.com, or call 1.844.217.0912.



Scan Now

Household spending up due to homebound families

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A tube of toothpaste, which used to last Margie about three weeks to use up, now lasts just a week.

Since seven days ago, she has had to replenish their bath soap twice already.

And she has been making extra runs to the local deli to buy bread and peanut butter because a jar of jelly seem to go half-empty in just three days. That same jar used to last at least a week.

"With my children at home and my husband and I having limited hours at work, we have had to spend more because my husband and I used to get free meals at work and our kids get free meals in school," said Margie (not her real name), 42, of As Lito.

This increased amount of expenditures doesn't seem to be a unique thing for Margie's household and is being replicated across many in the Marianas. With the COVID-19 concerns and pursuant to Gov. Ralph Torres call for the community to stay home, CNMI consumers are increasing their spending habits in stocking up.

According to a cashier at a grocery in Capital Hill, the influx of customers poured in immediately after confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam were reported, followed by Torres putting the CNMI under Public Health Emergency last week. "It has been pretty busy as people come in and out. There is never a lull moment in the store the past few days because people are getting ready and stocking up on basic necessities," she said.

"I don't think people are panic buying as everyone is



calm when they in the store. No one ever fought over toilet paper like what we see on the internet. The difference is they are just getting more than they usually get. I know some of the customers and I noticed that, instead of getting one bag of rice for the week, they get three," she added.

Ajani S. Burrell, an assistant professor at Northern Marianas College, said that his family's expenditures on groceries went up 50%. "...This is not because of price increases but because we wanted to purchase a little extra food due to the uncertainty surrounding the virus and responses to it.

We are thankful that it appears businesses have not raised their prices, and we hope supply chains can remain largely consistent and prices can stay as they were before the pandemic," he said.

"Our priorities include fresh fruits and vegetables; household cleaning and sanitation products as well. Unfortunately, it seems that some items, like hand-sanitizers and rubbing alcohol are completely unavailable on island," he added.

A government employee from Gualo Rai said that the current situation is hitting his family hard. "Our spending

on groceries is based on our biweekly paychecks. ...The break from work is definitely a loss. ...It is even more worrisome for my elderly parents since I know the fatality rate among the more vulnerable people is higher," he said.

"However, I see the spending as more of an investment toward preventing the risk of getting COVID-19. ...The same priorities on grocery items remain unchanged, but if anything, we added more fresh fruits on our list," he added.

A mother from San Vicente said that she considers losing her job last December a blessing, considering that she

can now stay home and take care of her child and husband. "When I lost my job, I started to be cautious of our spending, even if my husband has a good job that could sustain our lifestyle. ...I have always believed in not spending beyond our means and the importance of saving on rainy days," she said.

"For our groceries, we still purchase the same amount every payday as it has been our habit to buy necessities like butane, dog food, etc., even if we still have a good stock at home. This practice helps us not to panic buy," she added.

Burrell said that he and

Many consumers thinking about the health and wellbeing of their families stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

his family are actually spending a little less than what they usually do. "There's less to spend money on since so few businesses are currently open for patronage. That said, we are spending more money on other things, like materials for home improvement projects since we are largely homebound," he said.

"I don't think about or lament the fact that we are spending this money because it seems necessary. That said, we would obviously much rather spend money on things other than bleach or Lysol wipes. On balance, I guess I would say I see it more as an investment in our health rather than a loss," he added.



■ Please stay home and avoid unnecessary travel as much as possible.

■ If you feel sick or if someone in your home is sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Avoid social gatherings. Contact your personal doctor or call the COVID-19 Info Line at 285-1542, 285-1672, 285-1352, or 285-1854.

■ If you are an older person (*man'amko*), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

■ If you are a person with a pre-existing illness (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease), you are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. Stay home and away from other people as much as possible.

■ Work or do schoolwork from home whenever possible and reasonable.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Avoid eating out at restaurants, use drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options.

■ Continue practicing good hygiene:

● Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

● Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

● Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.

● Avoid touching your face.

● Disinfect frequently used items (cellphones, computers, household items) as much as possible.

Source: Office of the Governor

CHCC amends rules for dialysis center, dental clinic

By JUSTINE NAUTA

justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has stepped up its public outreach efforts in order to help more people as the world face the novel coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19.

For those who want to learn more about the virus, CHCC has set up a hotline-285-1542/1672/1352/1854-for the public.

For those seeking mental health assistance and health tips during such a critical time, reach out to the Mental Health Care Line at 285-1856/1857. These numbers are available 7:30am-7pm from Monday to Sunday.

In addition, the CHCC is changing policies for visitors and patients going through its

hemodialysis center. Effective immediately until further notice, following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation, CHCC will not be allowing visitors and caregivers to be seated chairside during treatments unless the patient is non-ambulatory and has a medical condition(s) where the patient is dependent on caregivers for their basic needs.

Caregivers will be asked wait in the waiting room, or outside of the treatment room, until treatment is completed. Other visitors, while a patient is in active treatment, are currently not allowed, most especially for patients in isolation.

"We want to protect the health of those who are most vulnerable or high risk, and the dialysis patients are at a

high risk," said Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer. "We want to make sure that when they get their treatment, that there's no risk at all."

Muña said that the only exception is for patients who are non-ambulatory and have medical condition(s) where the patient is dependent on caregivers for their basic needs. She stressed that CHCC will be strict with this rule.

Separately, the CHCC Dental Clinic will be temporarily open for dental emergencies only.

Recommended by the American Dental Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CHCC will accommodate only true dental emergencies.

People who do not have

a dental emergency or other immediate medical concerns are being asked to stay home. CHCC Dental Clinic patients will be rescheduled.

What is a dental emergency?

Heavy bleeding—bleeding from the mouth that does not stop—is a dental emergency. Tooth trauma, a tooth that has been knocked out or broken in half due to a fall or accident, is a dental emergency. Swelling or infection, severe swelling of the mouth or jaw, especially swelling that makes it difficult to swallow, open your mouth, or breathe is a dental emergency. Severe toothache, severe toothache or pain that prevents you from eating or sleeping at night and does not respond to over-the-counter

pain medications can also be a dental emergency.

If you believe you are experiencing a dental emergency, contact your dental clinic or call the CHCC Dental Clinic at 236-8369, 7:30am-4:30pm from Monday to Friday.

DFEMS statement

Additionally, in an attempt to practicing social distancing, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Service would like to inform the public that if you received a billing statement from DFEMS regarding ambulance services, it's advised to hold off paying and the Fire Code Enforcement Office will also be closed until Gov. Ralph DLG Torres lifts his Executive Order 2020-04 in which he declared a state of public health emergency.

Unemployment cash, rebate, school funding in draft bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senate negotiators released draft legislation yesterday with relief for workers and families nationwide coping with job loss and other economic impacts of the coronavirus. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Senate draft bill includes weekly payments to unemployed workers in the Marianas similar to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance provided after typhoons.

Taxpayers will also receive a one-time payment of \$1,200

for an individual or \$2,400 for joint filers with an additional \$500 for each child. The cost of the rebate will be covered over to the Marianas by the U.S. Treasury.

And \$100 million is set-aside in an Education Stabilization Fund for schools in the Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Airlines also receive a subsidy to maintain service, including to remote and rural areas.

Sablan has been in Washington, D.C. since last week,

working on getting the economic needs of the Marianas addressed in the third coronavirus legislation being negotiated in Congress. He set out four broad principles to help the Marianas in a letter Wednesday to House leadership, including:

- Direct aid to the Marianas government similar to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund used in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during the financial crisis of 2009.
- Direct aid to workers

who lose their jobs, with a recommendation to use Disaster Unemployment Assistance as a model for places like the Marianas that do not have state unemployment insurance systems.

- Aid for industries that support tourism with provision that smaller, less profitable markets like the Marianas are not abandoned by airlines.

- Cover-over of federal funds for tax-based relief directly to the Marianas and other areas where federal income taxes are not required.

Sablan also had his policy requirements made part of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus position on what needed to be in the third coronavirus

relief legislation.

Sablan also took the lead on letters to Senate leaders Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer on Saturday, asking for additional help for health care in the insular areas and advocating for use of Disaster Unemployment Assistance in places like the Pacific insular areas without unemployment insurance systems. All the other insular delegates signed on to Sablan's letter.

On-track, but more is needed

"I think we are on track to get the help I asked for the Marianas," Sablan said, after reviewing the Senate's 580-page draft bill. "Most important, of

course, is 'household liquidity,' making sure families have money to feed themselves and pay their bills. Weekly unemployment checks and the one-time tax rebate are a step in the right direction.

"But this is just a first draft and just the Senate's position," Sablan added, "[House] Speaker Pelosi and all of us in the Democratic Caucus will be asking for even more help for workers and families, who are trying to cope with the devastating effects of the coronavirus."

Sablan said the funding for the Marianas Public School System is particularly welcome. PSS has announced it will be laying off all its workers on April 3, unless Sablan is able to get schools some financial assistance. **(PR)**

Limited operations at Saipan Cares for Animals

The Saipan Cares for Animals Rescue Clinic will be closed until further notice due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will only be accepting emergencies for treatment in the clinic. It is still scheduling grooming appointments, and will allow for medications to be picked up during its usual hours.

If your pet is having a medical emergency (hurt, not eating, etc.) call Beth Pliscou directly at 285-5448. She will advise you on what to do and whether to bring your animal to the clinic.

If your animal needs to be groomed, vaccinated, or if you need flea/tick or de-worming medication, call the clinic at

(670)488-2287 during the hours of 12pm to 3pm, Tuesday to Saturday. You will be advised on whether you can come in and pick up the medication or schedule a grooming appointment.

Do not bring your animal to the clinic unless you have an appointment. "Our medications are based on how much your animal weighs. If you do not know exactly how much your dog weighs, please estimate.

Do not come inside the clinic. Wait in your car in the parking lot and call 488-2287. A staff member will bring your pet's medication out to you in your car. Have your payment ready.

"Thank you for doing your part to keep our staff, animals, and community safe and healthy," said the group in a statement yesterday. "As with many organizations in the CNMI, we are struggling financially because of COVID-19. We are doing our best to continue to provide services for the community, and thank you for your support during this difficult time. If you can, please donate to the Bruce Memorial Fund for Saipan Cares at www.gofundme.com/saipancares-donations or donate by Paypal at donate@saipancares.com. Please visit our FB page Saipan Cares for Animals for more information." **(PR)**

SBA loans for NMI small businesses now available

As of March 21, 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration is now offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus, or COVID-19.


Find links to the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Coronavirus Resource Page, which clearly

explains loan program eligibility and how to fill out the application.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information, and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may

call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

If you are having trouble filling out the form, first check the linked "SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Presentation." If you still have questions, contact CNMI SBDC Director Nicole Babauta at nbabauta@pacificsbdc.com or 670-287-3018. **(PR)**


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-19-036, REV. 1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.


All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-IFB-20-001

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of approximately 20,000,000 US gallons annually of **No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The No. 2-D S15 Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra-low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" **ASTM D975-14**.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

The Bid Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-001, Supply and Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 9, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC-Power Engineer, Venugopal Prabhakar via email address venu.pabrahakar@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC-Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 58

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stop hoarding and start trusting, or the coronavirus wins

Even if we are feeling legitimate anxiety about society these days, most people seem OK with keeping a few feet away from others, working from home, distance learning and washing their hands a lot—practices aimed at taking care of other people.

But we're not purely altruistic. Panic shopping—for toilet paper, hand sanitizer or really anything that doesn't have an expiration date—shows that when this is all over, we will have some lessons to learn about ourselves.

Hoarding is humanity at its worst. It's a me-first attitude that we must move beyond if we are to survive this health crisis and the next, which could be orders of magnitude more severe.

What caused our toilet paper shortage? Fear—not of the coronavirus but of each other, fear that someone else would buy up everything before we could get to it. A few people took what might have begun as a need to have a sense of control in the chaos and went into self-protection mode, looking out for No. 1. That started a chain reaction of shortsighted selfishness as more people saw that their own legitimate and often humble needs were suddenly at risk.

Toilet paper factories aren't burning down. Toilet paper factory workers aren't on strike. Toilet paper raw materials aren't in short supply. There was no legitimate economic reason for a run on toilet paper except for the expectation of a shortage. And if people had bought only what they needed, there would likely be more than enough to go around.

Of course, the sudden shift to a home-based economy is going to mean some changes—no more using the facilities at work or school, more cooking at home. So some temporary shortages might have been expected, and personal conservation measures warranted, as supply chains adjusted. And adjust they will—toilet paper will soon return to a supermarket near you, and there should be plenty for everyone, as long as the hoarding stops.

It comes down to this: Do we act in our own immediate self-interests, all of the time, or do we act with a sense of trust that the hoarding will stop? In times like these, when our interconnectedness is on full display, it should be easy to see how critical it is that we take care of each other if we intend to take care of ourselves.

When the coronavirus fades, our condition will depend completely on how we have treated each other now, at the beginning. If we act selfishly, the odds increase that the health crisis will be worse, there will be more shortages and more deaths.

For some, having that much trust will mean a significant change of mindset. But we must trust each other not to be selfish if we're going to take care of each other.

Putting the good of the community before the needs of the individual might cause some mild but temporary discomfort, but it's a challenge that other generations have successfully shouldered in times of war, famine and disease.

It's up to us now.

(c)2020 The Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.)



It's OK not to feel OK right now. But here's how to feel better

It's OK to be scared.

It's OK to be confused, anxious, angry, lonely.

Whatever emotion you're feeling in this coronavirus craziness, it's OK. Try not to dwell in the worst of it, try not to feed it, try not to take it out on other people. But don't feel guilty for feeling what you feel.

That's some of the best advice I've heard for this surreal moment in which a tiny virus has shut down the world, a moment that arrived so gradually, it seems, and yet like an explosion.

Think back to only a week ago. What were you doing?

I'm writing this on Friday, March 20. Last Friday I went out to dinner. I did it ambivalently but the friend I'd planned to go with said we should go to support the waiters and so we went.

By Saturday I'd put myself on house arrest except to go out for solitary walks (keeping 6 feet away from other humans) and I've taken to calling that Friday dinner "The Last Supper."

We look back now at last week as if it belongs to an ancient past, back when human beings went freely to the gym, the bar, the sports arena.

A week ago we kept calendars. How pointless those calendars seem now. The upcoming dinner date, doctor's appointment, concert? They're dreams that vanished like clouds.

Now the future is erased. The planned future, at any rate. The future is still out there but it's as inscrutable as our calendars are blank. It's the uncertainty, above all, that rattles us.

What next? What now? We wait.

And while we wait, we search for ways to stay safe and sane, for new routines to serve as solid ground in this shifting time. To help myself in that regard, I've invented what I call the "OK-Better" game. It allows you to feel what you feel while trying to feel something better. It goes like this:

It's OK that you feel claustrophobic.

It's better to remember, as my youngest sister—who lives alone, with mental struggles and diabetes—said to me recently, "At least I have a home."

It's OK that you forgot to shower today. And yesterday. Two days? Really?

No shame. But it's better to take a shower.

It's OK to be eating weird stuff because when you got to the grocery store, the only stuff left in the frozen food aisles was okra and riced cauliflower, and the only canned soup left on the shelf was some gross curry thing that you bought anyway.

Rather than curse the shoppers who grabbed the items you prefer, it's better to imagine you're enjoying culinary adventures in a foreign country.

It's OK to feel a pinch of alarm at that vague sore throat.

It's better not to assume you're dying the minute your throat

By **MARY SCHMICH**

Chicago Tribune

Mary Schmich is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.



feels ticklish.

It's OK if you wake up in the middle of the night worrying for the people you love and depend on. I woke up the other night afraid for my sisters; for a couple of my brothers who are suddenly short on work; for my friends who are yoga teachers, musicians, waitresses, who now have no work; for the doctors, nurses, grocery clerks, cops, everyone who keeps on working, at risk to themselves, because we need them.

That fear is reasonable, but it feels better to look for a way to help. Check on a neighbor. Call a friend who may be lonely. Send a check to a charitable organization. Buy a gift card to a local business. If you ordinarily pay a housekeeper, a gardener, a dog walker, keep paying them.

It's OK to spend more time than normal watching Netflix.

It's better to get off the couch occasionally to take a walk, play an instrument, wipe down those doorknobs again.

It's OK to lack the focus to read a book.

But you'll feel better if you order a book from an independent bookstore. One day you'll want to read something besides grim news again.

It's OK to read the grim news.

It's better to read less of it.

It's OK to think of what you're losing during this hard time, what we all are, in different forms and measures and with different capacities to cope.

You'll feel better thinking of how much you still have. And of how much we're learning. About disease and government. About our reliance on people we take for granted. About how to wash our hands. And how to work on Zoom.

It's OK to acknowledge that this crisis we're living through is likely to get worse before it gets better.

But it will get better.

In the meantime, I keep hearing the words of the Tibetan Buddhist nun Pema Chodron, who begins her book "When Things Fall Apart" with one of the most insightful sentences ever written: "This very moment is the perfect teacher."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Do you need a lawyer?

Running a business is a balancing act. It's not just providing a useful product or service. It's also generating revenue, tracking cash flow, minimizing expenses, navigating regulations, responding to complaints, closing deals, and more. Sometimes these activities require legal help, other times not. But how can you tell when you need a lawyer and when you can safely do it yourself?

Sadly, there's no one-size-fits-all answer to that question. After all, each business is unique. And those differences matter. But below are some guidelines and a list of hints so that you can make an educated decision about when the cost of a lawyer is a good value and, just as importantly, when it's not.

To start, you should keep in mind the following rules of thumb. First, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In other words, doing something right at the beginning is usually far cheaper (and less painful) than fixing a mistake later on. Second, the more money at stake, the higher the odds that you'll want a lawyer involved. So, while it doesn't make sense to hire a lawyer to handle a \$10 problem, you would be just as silly to avoid the expense of a lawyer when you're facing a \$1 million issue.

With those guidelines in mind, let's discuss eight common situations where you will want to seriously consider getting legal help.

First, if you are about to sign a new contract, hold off until you've had your lawyer review it. Maybe you want to start a franchise (like Starbucks or Burger King). Maybe you need a loan from a bank, the Commonwealth Development Authority, or the Small Business Administration. Or perhaps you are

leasing land or property. Whatever it is, if the other side wrote the documents, the language probably doesn't favor you. So, you'll want your lawyer to check for unfair terms and unhappy surprises.

Second, if a deal is important, you may want to get your lawyer involved in the negotiations early on. For example, if you are buying or selling a business, negotiating loan terms, or bargaining over a land or equipment lease, your lawyer will be familiar with the process, sticking points, and what's normal. As a result, they can be especially useful in guiding you through the transaction.

Third, if your business will use the same contracts again and again, you may want to have your lawyer draft or, at least, review the form contracts to make sure they hit the right beats. Often you will focus on a few key commercial terms but a good contract normally needs to cover more terrain than a layperson expects.

Fourth, if a lawsuit is threatened or filed, get your lawyer involved immediately. Don't delay because deadlines kick in as soon as the suit is filed. Once your lawyer's up to speed, they can help you figure out the right course of action. Sometimes that's negotiation. Other times it's fighting. Many times, it's a bit of both. Regardless, it's generally not a good idea to navigate a lawsuit on your own because of the procedural and substantive complexities baked into the litigation journey.

Fifth, if you need to deal with the government about items outside the run-of-the-mill, you may want to get a lawyer involved. For example, if you get whacked with a fine or want to challenge an agency's interpretation of a statute or regulation.

Sixth, if you want to bring new investors into your business, speak with a lawyer familiar with securities law. There's a raft of laws that apply to seeking and signing up new investors. If you don't pay attention to those often-complicated rules, you're asking for trouble.

Seventh, if your business is struggling, you may want to speak with an attorney about bankruptcy. In many instances, they may find a way to give you some breathing space (usually by leverag-

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

ing the bankruptcy process, or the threat of it, to cut better deals with your creditors).

Eighth, if you've begun to think about how you'll exit the business, definitely talk with lawyers familiar with tax, business, and estate planning. They can help you address the gamut of issues such as what happens if you die, become disabled, or just want to retire.

What's the takeaway from the list? Talking with a lawyer is not just about solving problems. Many times, it's about maximizing opportunities like buying a business, getting a loan to expand, or adding new investors.

So, don't just think about talking to your lawyer when you want to put out a fire. Consider giving them a quick call when anything major is on the horizon, both good or bad.

A call may seem expensive. But a competent attorney will help you sidestep a raft of problems. And that will ultimately save you way more than going it alone until problems have exploded into crises.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please practice what you preach on social distancing

Dear Gov. Ralph DLG Torres: I felt compelled to respond to you and your PIO, Kevin Bautista, after reading your press release claiming only two minority members showed up to the meeting you called for on Thursday, March 19.

You see, governor, two members of the minority did show up to the meeting you held in your conference room: Reps. Sheila Babauta and Ed Villagomez. The four remaining minority members—Reps. Tina Sablan, Richard Lizama, Donald Manglona, and myself—attended via Messenger. In other words, we teleconferenced through Rep. Babauta's phone. We listened attentively to everything discussed.

Governor, you have been telling people to stay home and not to have gatherings of more than 10 people, yet you wanted to hold a meeting with the entire Legislature, the COVID-19 Task Force, your PIO, and other Cabinet members. Think about that. It is reckless to hold a large meeting in a small conference room where people cannot practice six feet of separation. Rep. Tina Sablan asked if we could teleconference in. Why couldn't you simply make this happen? Have you heard of Zoom? It's a great teleconferencing app that is being used by our minority team, as well as other working professionals.

In the spirit of cooperation and unity, please feel free to call me anytime on my personal cell phone at 287-7883. I also ask that you think about the safety of others and embrace social distancing. We must practice what we preach.

Yes, this crisis is bigger than politics. It requires some humility in all of us. While we must be united in fighting this crisis together, expect us to disagree and debate policies that we may not agree on. That is not politics. That is progress. Again, feel free to reach out to me anytime or to call me on Zoom or Messenger or WhatsApp. Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

Edwin K. Propst

House of Representatives
21st Legislature, Capital Hill

Trump didn't dictate coronavirus response

What happens when the supposed dictator won't dictate? This is the conundrum confronted by the harshest critics of President Donald Trump who have gone from warning he is a budding despot to complaining he hasn't done enough to impose his will during the coronavirus crisis.

They can't believe that he didn't urge sports leagues to cancel their seasons, call for school systems to close, or tell bars and restaurants to shutter before this wave of closures began.

As a New York Times report put it, Trump "has essentially become a bystander as school superintendents, sports commissioners, college presidents, governors and business owners across the country take it upon themselves to shut down much of American life."

Ordinarily, tyrants aren't bystanders. They don't give other political players and civic institutions wide latitude to make their own decisions. They don't have to be pushed to declare a national emergency unlocking various powers. They don't have to be lobbied to call out the military to deal with a domestic problem.

Trump has now declared an emergency and issued national guidelines against gatherings of more than 10 people, but his initial instinct was to urge people to stay calm and carry on.

The problem with Trump's mode of governance isn't that he's a would-be authoritarian. Rather, he has a highly personalized view of the presidency and an abiding belief that he can talk his way out of any difficulty—including, initially, a public-health crisis not susceptible to spin. This deeply flawed approach contributed to his early stumbles in the coronavirus response, but it doesn't make him a falangist.

What we're likely to find is that Trump ends up leading a characteristically American effort against the outbreak. As Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute points out, we usually fumble around in the early stages of a national crisis before bringing to bear massive resources to wrestle it to the ground.

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

For better or worse, the Great Depression prompted the creation of the most far-reaching economic programs in our history after a period of passivity and drift. We responded to the perceived crisis of the Soviet Sputnik launch with the Apollo program that soaked up 4% of GDP. Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed New Orleans and initially FEMA, before we put an army general in charge of the relief.

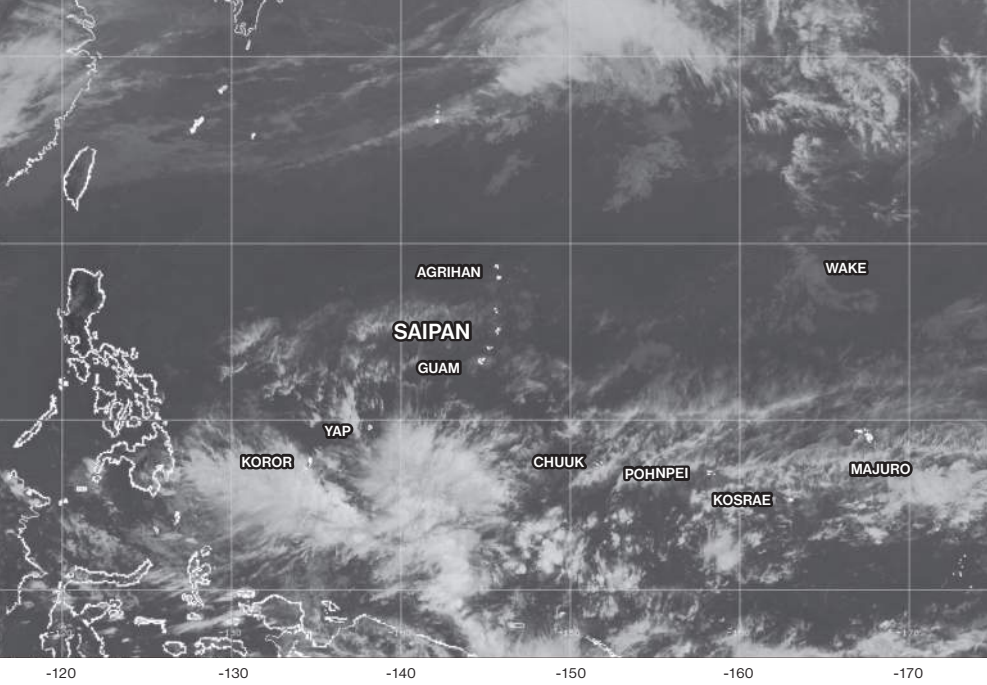
The initial indications of a financial crisis in 2008 were greeted with denial and half-measures. Then, the federal government responded with a historic bailout of the banks and the Federal Reserve undertook an unprecedented program to pump liquidity into the economy.

The outlines of a similar response to the coronavirus are already evident. The move from relative normality to large parts of the country being shut down was remarkably swift—it happened in the space of about a week. Testing has been slow to come online, but is ramping up now. If hospitals are overwhelmed, we will see the rapid retrofitting of additional space. The Federal Reserve and the federal government are embarking on major stimulus and relief programs.

Such is our robust, multi-layered society and system of government that much of this doesn't depend on the president, let alone a dictator.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
88°	75°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry conditions are expected to continue through the week. near the weekend, a slight increase in showers is possible as a weak shear line approaches the islands. Due to dry mid-levels, showers are expected to remain isolated with mostly cloudy skies over the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	68° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°	
Honolulu	Windy	79° / 70°	
London	Mostly Sunny	57° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	63° / 51°	
Manila	Sunny	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	59° / 44°	
Osaka	Sunny	61° / 45°	
Paris	Sunny	55° / 30°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	61° / 54°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	54° / 34°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	80° / 65°	
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	64° / 43°	
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:56 AM	LOW TIDE	0.21	
8:10 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	
2:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.61	
7:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:15 AM	6:25 PM	-
Wednesday	6:50 AM	7:11 PM	-
Thursday	7:26 AM	7:57 PM	-
Friday	8:01 AM	8:45 PM	-
Saturday	8:39 AM	9:33 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 22, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6, 7	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily up to Mar 25 only	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily up to Mar 25 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via GUM

OTHER FLIGHTS SUSPENDED

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top-level negotiations between Congress and the White House churned into the night Sunday over a now nearly \$2 trillion economic rescue package, as the coronavirus crisis deepened, the nation shut down and the first U.S. senator tested positive for the disease.

As President Donald Trump took to the podium in the White House briefing room and promised to help Americans who feel afraid and isolated as the pandemic spreads, the Senate voted against advancing the rescue package. But talks continued on Capitol Hill.

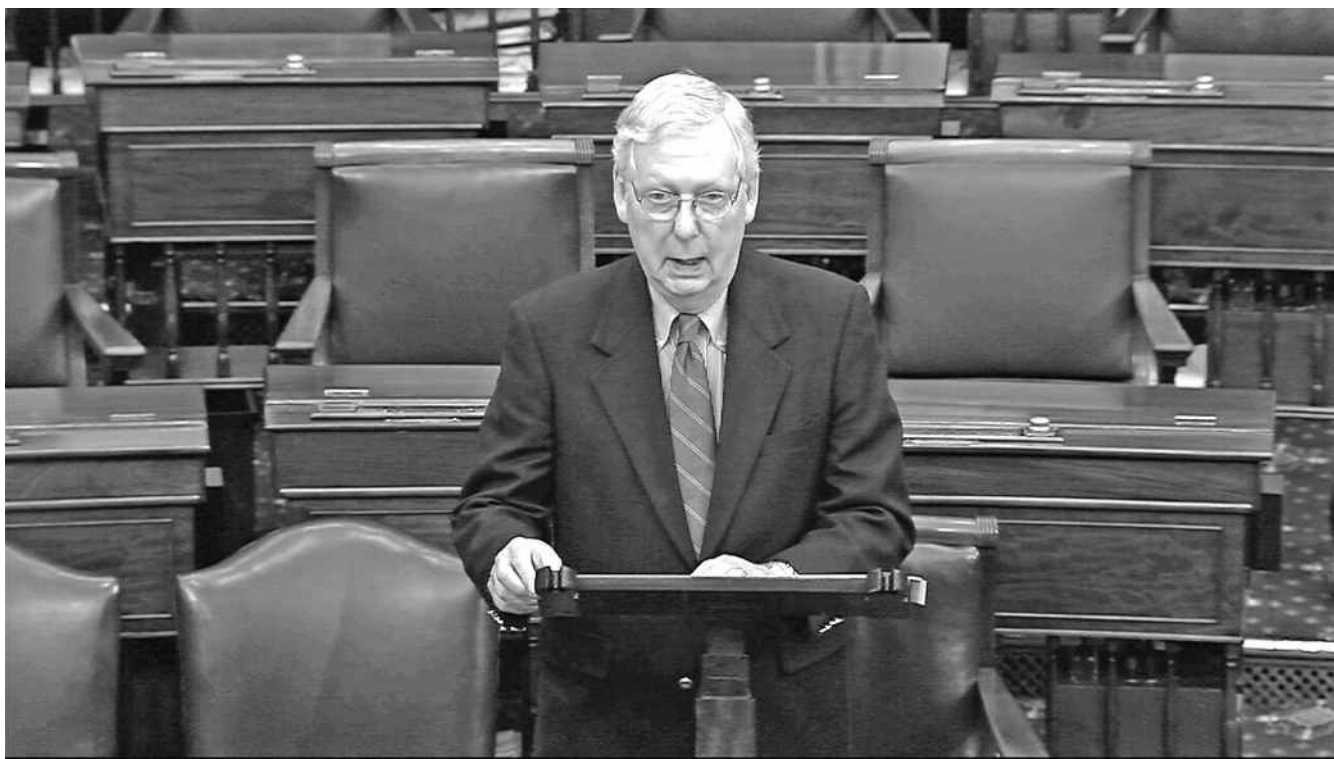
"I think you'll get there. To me it's not very complicated: We have to help the worker. We have to save the companies," Trump said. "We're enduring a great national trial and we will prove that we can meet the moment. We're at war."

Inside the otherwise emptied out Capitol, the draft aid bill was declared insufficient by Democrats, who argued it was tilted toward corporations and did too little to help workers and health care providers. Republicans returned to the negotiating table.

With a population on edge and shell-shocked financial markets poised for the new work week, Washington labored under the size and scope of the rescue package that's more ambitious than any in recent times—larger than the 2008 bank bailout and 2009 recovery act combined.

"Our nation cannot afford a game of chicken," warned Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., his voice rising on the Senate floor Sunday night. He set a new vote for Monday morning.

But Democrats say the



In this image from video, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., speaks on the Senate floor at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Congressional rescue talks churn as **CRISIS DEEPENS**

At a glance: Nearly \$2T coronavirus rescue package

A snapshot of the emerging rescue package in Congress to provide healthcare and economic aid amid the coronavirus outbreak and national shutdown.

The details are subject to change as congressional leaders and the White House continue negotiating the nearly \$2 trillion package. The highlights so far:

ONE-TIME CHECKS TO AMERICANS

The measure would provide a quick, one-time stipend of about \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 for couples, and \$3,000 for family of four. The money would cut off at higher income levels.

PAYCHECK SUPPORT

An estimated \$350 billion would be provided for small businesses to keep mak-

ing payroll. Companies with 500 or fewer employees could tap up to \$10 million each in forgivable small business loans to keep paychecks flowing.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXPANSION

Workers who are eligible would receive up to 39 weeks of unemployment insurance through the end of 2020 if they are sidelined by the outbreak. The coverage would be retroactive to Jan. 27.

EMERGENCY FUNDING, PUBLIC HEALTH

The bill includes an additional \$242 billion in additional emergency funds to fight the virus and shore up for safety net programs. That includes money for food stamps, child nutrition, hospitals, the Centers for Disease Control and public

health and transportation agencies.

The measure includes \$15.6 billion to augment the food stamp program, which helps feed around 40 million Low income people per year. It's annual budget is around \$70 billion.

INDUSTRY AID

The initial GOP plan called for \$208 billion in loans to airlines and other industries, which would have to be repaid. Leaders are still negotiating the final number and how the money would be provided by the administration.

STATE AID

Negotiators are still hammering out whether there will be money give to the states, whose governors have requested billions to shore up their budgets. (AP)

largely GOP-led effort does not go far enough to provide health care and worker aid, and fails to put restraints on a proposed \$500 billion "slush fund" for corporations.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., meeting late with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, said the draft package "significantly cut back our hospitals, our cities, our states, our medical workers and so many others needed in this crisis."

Democrats won a concession—to provide four months of expanded unemployment benefits, rather than just three as proposed, according to an official granted anonymity to discuss the private talks.

While the congressional leaders worked into the night, alarms were being sounded from coast to coast about the wave of coronavirus cases about to crash onto the nation's health system.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio had dire, urgent news from the pandemic's U.S. epicenter: "April and May are going to be a lot worse," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

De Blasio all but begged Washington to help procure ventilators and other medical supplies. He accused the president of "not lifting a finger" to help.

Trump urged Congress to get a deal done and, during the Sunday briefing, responded to criticism that his administration was sluggish to act. He cited his cooperation with the three states hardest hit—New York, Washington and California—and invoked a measure to give governors flexibility in calling up the national guard under their control, while the federal government covers the bill.

But even as Trump stressed federal-local partnerships, some governors, including Republican Greg Abbott of Texas, expressed unhappiness with Washington's response.

BALTIMORE (AP)—The coronavirus has flung the U.S. economy into a dangerous tailspin, and President Donald Trump's reelection hopes are caught in the sudden whirlwind.

For the next seven months, Trump may be consigned to campaigning in a country beset by a fear of job loss, bankruptcy and disease. It will require a remarkable pivot for the president, who has relentlessly cheered the stock market's rise and the economy's strength as the central predicate for a second term.

Many economists say the

Trump's fate tied to an unknown: How fast economy recovers

expected federal stimulus will not prevent a recession. Officials put the price tag of the developing package on Capitol Hill at nearly \$1.4 trillion and said that with other measures from the Federal Reserve, the financial rescue could pump \$2 trillion into the U.S. economy.

Stocks have already collapsed. Businesses and schools are closing to try to contain the outbreak. Requests for unemployment benefits suggest that weekly layoffs could soon eclipse the worst of the Great Recession as mil-

lions of people lose their jobs. Analysts at the bank Goldman Sachs estimate that 2.25 million Americans filed for jobless aid over the past week, a total slightly higher than the job gains for all of 2019.

"Nothing can stop an economic downturn now," said Aaron Sojourner, a University of Minnesota professor and former White House economist. He said that the major questions confronting lawmakers are how the country can weather a recession, when the widespread quarantines can end and how

enough jobs can be preserved to stir a recovery.

The economy and politics have collided in a such a profound way that no one knows how the election will play out in November. Trump's fate may rest on just how long the downturn lasts and whether Americans judge it to be an outside shock caused by nature or the result of government negligence or incompetence.

"The situation is not good -- that is different from saying the president is responsible for it," said Patrick Ruffini, a Re-

publican strategist. "It is much easier to explain away a deep recession as an act of God."

Yet voters might not feel all that forgiving. The administration has repeatedly played down the coronavirus' health and economic risks. Only a month ago, the top White House economist suggested at a meeting with reporters that an outbreak would do little to harm growth.

"I don't think corona is as big a threat as people make it out to be," said Tomas Philipson, acting chairman of the White House Council of

Economic Advisers, at the time. "What I can say is that if you look at the resilience of an economy to a public health threat, certainly we have much bigger threats than the coronavirus."

The lethality of the virus has now overridden such optimism. California and New York are among the states on near lockdown status, and many others are in essentially the same place. Trump himself has abruptly changed his tone, and top federal health officials are now trying to prepare Americans for the soaring number of cases they believe are sure to come.

Nation

Presidents in health crises: Trump more hands-on than many

WASHINGTON (AP)—Woodrow Wilson was more focused on the end of World War I than a flu virus that was making its way around the globe, ultimately sickening hundreds of thousands of Americans, including the president himself.

George W. Bush stood with a bullhorn on a pile of rubble after the 9/11 attacks on lower Manhattan and promised that the people who were responsible “will hear all of us soon.”

Barack Obama was in office for just a few months when the first reports came in about the H1N1 virus, which would eventually be declared a pandemic like today’s new coronavirus.

Most American presidents will confront a crisis — or crises — before they leave office, whether it is a natural disaster, war, economic downturn, public health threat or terrorism.

What matters is how they respond, historians say.

“The number one thing a president can do in a moment like this is try to calm the nation,” said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University.

It’s what Franklin D. Roosevelt did during an extraordinary 12 years in office, guiding the nation through a bleak period of Depression-era unemployment, a severe Midwest drought known as the Dust Bowl and battle against the Nazis and Japanese in World War II.



AP
In this Saturday, March 21, 2020, file photo President Donald Trump speaks during a coronavirus task force briefing at the White House in Washington.

and nurses.

The president’s early attempts to minimize the severity of the situation, and to suggest that it was under control, have been panned, though he recently adopted a more urgent tone.

But the damage has been done, said Scott Morrison, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, citing lack of public trust due to Trump’s early handling of the situation.

“Not having trust and confidence is a huge liability heading into something this catastrophic,” said Morrison, senior vice president and director of the Global Health Policy Center at CSIS.

Obama was a few months into his first term in 2009 term when reports started coming in that April about the H1N1 flu. He addressed the situation that month, assembled a team and ultimately declared both a public health emergency and a national emergency to deal with the threat.

“This is obviously a very serious situation, and every American should know that their entire government is taking the utmost precautions and preparations,” Obama said as he opened a White House news conference that month.

During the influenza of Wilson’s time, which killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide, including about 675,000 in America, presidents were not involved in public health issues in the same way that President Donald Trump has become engrossed in the U.S. effort against the new coronavirus.

Such issues were left for public health professionals at the state and local level.

“Wilson never issued any public statement whatso-

ever,” said John M. Barry, author of “The Great Influenza,” a book about the 1918 flu. “He was entirely focused on the war. Period.”

In fact, Wilson was so focused on the post-war peace talks that he was a party to in Paris that he, too, ended up stricken with the flu. He recovered.

Trump, on the other hand, seems intent on being the public face of the effort against what has become his most serious challenge in a reelection year. Trump, who has no scientific or medical training, now leads a daily White House briefing on coronavirus efforts by a task force he tapped the vice president to lead.

Trump styles himself as a “wartime president” fighting an “invisible enemy” responsible for hundreds of deaths and thousands of infections in the U.S. - numbers that will continue to rise as the virus spreads — and a dramatic upheaval of everyday life.

Millions of people have been ordered or urged to stay home for the foreseeable future, cut off from simple pleasures like going to restaurants, shopping malls or movies in a bid to slow the virus.

But Trump’s crisis management has earned mixed reviews, with praise from many supporters and criticism from detractors, including mayors and governors who are desperate for Trump to more robustly use his authority to help them get much-needed protective gear and supplies for doctors

that of Republican President Herbert Hoover, who oversaw the Great Depression and dismissed the collapse of the stock market as exaggerated. When it proved disastrous, shantytowns came to be known as Hoovervilles. He was trounced in the next election by the Democratic governor of New York, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who then steered the nation through the depression and World War II.

“He started off a Herbert Hoover and he done a 180 trying to be FDR,” Brinkley said. Voters in November will judge which one he is closer to being, he said, and some of that will be based on things now largely out of his control: how many die, how painful the economic fallout proves to be.

If the virus lingers through the summer, “he’s going to be left holding the bad soundbites and being seen as the leader who failed us when the bell rang—he was missing in round one for a 10-round fight,” Brinkley said.

But presidential historian Douglas Brinkley said the shift from skeptic to wartime president may be difficult for Trump. He compared the president’s response with

Americans see Trump’s virus response through partisan lens

LARGO, Fla. (AP)—As restaurants across the country stacked chairs on tables and shut their doors to try to contain the deadly coronavirus, what would be the final visitors streamed into the Conservative Grounds coffee shop in Largo, Florida.

Fox News played on the televisions. Patrons posed for photos in a replica of the Oval Office. An 80-year-old man, defying officials’ advice to stay home, beamed near a life-sized cutout of a grinning President Donald Trump.

This Trump-themed coffee shop embodies the right edge of the country’s political divide. Outside its walls, state officials put in place an unprecedented shutdown of public life and Trump scrambled to fight a virus that he had accused political opponents and the media of pushing as a “new hoax.” Criticism of the president’s preparedness was rampant.

Inside, customers gave Trump

an A-plus on his response to the spreading pandemic. “He’s doing great things,” the owner said Wednesday.

America has a history of unifying in trying times and rallying around the president. But after years of deep division, in the earliest, head-spinning days of the pandemic, a fractured electorate largely viewed Trump’s performance through the lens they chose long ago. But the stakes are higher than they’ve ever been. The body count will rise; the economy will almost certainly crater. Trump’s political fate may be left up to the sliver of moderates in the middle, who will choose whether to blame him for the crisis spiraling on his watch.

“This could be the coup de grace of his presidency. The way he handles this, history will judge, as well as the American people,” said Brandon Brice, host of a radio show called “Straight Talk” in Detroit, who

supported Trump in 2016 and is looking to how he handles this crisis before deciding if he will again. “This is the president’s moment, right now.”

Trump for weeks denied the seriousness of the outbreak when it first emerged in China. In January, he assured the nation that “we have it very well under control” and he compared the virus to the seasonal flu.

His supporters followed his lead: Surveys from early and mid-March found distinct differences in how Democrats and Republicans reacted. A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 36% of Democrats said they were very worried that they or family members would contract the virus, compared with 21% of Republicans.

Views on Trump’s handling of the crisis are also shaded heavily by partisanship. A Gallup poll found 82% of Republicans expressed some confidence

in Trump. Among Democrats, that number was just 12%.

Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster, noted throughout Trump’s presidency, his approval rating has hovered between 42% and 46%, with little change despite the endless cycle of controversy and chaos. Recent polling shows that has remained steady.

“Attitudes about the president, both pro and con, are deeply ingrained and almost impervious to the effect of news,” he said. “Now, we’ve never had an event quite like this one.”

For most people, the new virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority recover.

Globally, there have been more than 11,000 deaths from over 275,000 confirmed cases, according to a running tally

Asia

N. Korea says Trump's letter offers anti-virus cooperation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Donald Trump sent a personal letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, seeking to maintain good relations and offering cooperation in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, Kim's sister said Sunday.

The latest correspondence came as Kim observed the firing of tactical guided weapons over the weekend, drawing criticism from South Korea, as nuclear talks remain deadlocked.

In a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, Kim's sister and senior ruling party official, Kim Yo Jong, praised Trump for sending the letter at a time when "big difficulties and challenges lie ahead in the way of developing ties" between the countries.

In the letter, she said Trump explained his plan to "propel the relations between the two countries ... and expressed his intent to render cooperation in the anti-epidemic work," an apparent reference to the global coronavirus outbreak. She said her brother expressed his gratitude for Trump's letter.

North Korea has repeatedly



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects military exercise at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

said there hasn't been a single case of the coronavirus on its soil. Some foreign experts question that claim and say an outbreak in the North could

cause a humanitarian disaster because of its poor medical infrastructure. Last month, the State Department expressed concerns about North Korea's vulnerability to a potential coronavirus outbreak and said it was ready to support efforts by aid organizations to contain the spread of the illness in the North.

A senior Trump administration official said Sunday that Trump sent a letter to Kim that the official said was consistent with Trump's efforts to en-

gage global leaders during the pandemic. The official said Trump looks forward to continued communications with the North Korean leader.

Kim Yo Jong said Trump's letter is "a good example showing the special and firm personal relations" between the North Korean and U.S. leaders. But she said it's not a good idea to "make hasty conclusion or be optimistic about" the prospect for bilateral relations.

"In my personal opinion,

I think that the bilateral relations and dialogue for them would be thinkable only when the equilibrium is kept dynamically and morally and justice ensured between the two countries," she said. "Even at this moment we are working hard to develop and defend ourselves on our own under the cruel environment which the U.S. is keen to 'provide.'"

Earlier, Trump sent birthday greetings to Kim Jong Un, who was believed to have turned 36 on Jan. 8. Senior

North Korean official Kim Kye Gwan said at the time that the birthday message won't lead his country to return to talks unless the U.S. accepts its demands.

Kim and Trump have met three times and exchanged letters and envoys on many occasions since 2018, when they launched talks on the fate of Kim's advancing nuclear arsenal. The two leaders have avoided harsh language against each other, and Trump once said he and Kim "fell in love."

But their diplomacy has largely come to a standstill since the breakdown of their second summit in Vietnam in February 2019, when Trump rejected Kim's demands for broad sanctions relief in return for a partial disarmament step.

Kim pressed Trump to come up with new proposals to salvage the negotiations by the end of last year. Kim later vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent and unveil "a new strategic weapon," and warned that he would no longer be bound by a major weapons test moratorium.

In recent weeks, North Korea has fired a slew of artillery and other rockets into the sea in what experts say is an attempt to improve its military capabilities. The weapons were all short range and did not pose a direct threat to the U.S. mainland. A resumption of long-range missile or nuclear weapons tests by Kim would likely completely scuttle diplomacy with Trump, experts say.

ASIAN BRIEFS

17 Indian policemen killed in attack by Maoist rebels

PATNA, India (AP)—Seventeen policemen were killed and 14 others injured in an attack by Maoist rebels in eastern India, police said Sunday. The attack took place Saturday afternoon near Elmaguda village in Sukma district, 1,100 kilometers (683 miles) south of Patna, the state capital of Bihar, said Shalb Sinha, superintendent of police in Sukma. Sinha said the bodies of 17 policemen were recovered on Sunday after a search operation in the area. The area is a known stronghold of the rebels, who have been fighting in several Indian states for over 40 years. The rebels are considered India's biggest internal security threat and claim inspiration from Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. They are demanding land and jobs for impoverished tribal communities that they say are ignored by the government.

Troubled cruise ship with 2,000 passengers docks in Honolulu

HONOLULU (AP)—A cruise ship that had to cut short its trip because of the coronavirus and mechanical problems docked Sunday in Honolulu's harbor.

The Norwegian Jewel, which carried about 2,000 passengers, docked in the late afternoon, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported. The ship has problems with its propulsion, which will be repaired at Honolulu's harbor, the Hawaii Department of Transportation said. The repairs to the ship must be made without passengers aboard, the department added. "A detailed plan is being developed with Norwegian Cruise Line that keeps passengers isolated to avoid any potential strain on Hawaii's resources, while also addressing the well-being of the cruise line passengers who have been at sea for a very long time," said Jade Butay, director of the Hawaii Department of Transportation. The ship had to cut short its 23-day cruise of Australia and French Polynesia because many ports were closed due to the coronavirus, the ship's owner, Norwegian Cruise Line, said in a statement. The passengers last disembarked in Fiji on March 11, the transportation department said. Charter flights have been arranged for ship passengers on Monday and Tuesday from Honolulu to Los Angeles; Sydney; London; Vancouver, British Columbia; and Frankfurt, Germany, the company said.

Workers crowd trains for home as Indian cities close further

NEW DELHI (AP)—As cities and factories were closing in virus-control measures, Indian migrant workers crowded a railway station to reach their home villages Sunday, suggesting social distancing could be difficult in the world's second-most populous country.

The scene Sunday in Uttar Pradesh state was just one of many examples of crowding on the same day Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called on Indians to stay home for a 14-hour "people's curfew" to halt the spread of the virus.

In answer to his call for people to collectively cheer front-line health care workers at 5 p.m., a cacophony was heard in the capital as people clapped, rang bells, banged pots and pans, played music and exploded fireworks, sending crows and parakeets streaming from treetops, and stray dogs and cows into the deserted streets.

But elsewhere in Delhi

and in India's financial capital of Mumbai, people could be seen pressed together in close quarters.

Afterward, the government of Delhi, a federal territory, issued weeklong stay-at-home orders, canceling public transport services, closing shops, offices, factories and houses of worship, and allowing people to leave their homes only for basic necessities. Services such as police and health care were exempted from the rule. No commercial airplanes from abroad are allowed to land in India for a week starting Sunday.

Delhi joined the neighboring state of Haryana, home to the multinational corporate hub of Gurugram, as well as the states of Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Telangana and the federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir with near-total bans on public movement.

India has at least 329 active cases of infection with

the new coronavirus and seven deaths from COVID-19, the illness it causes.

Earlier Sunday, thousands of people from Mumbai and elsewhere in the western state of Maharashtra, jostled at a railway station in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. Police struggled from a distance to control the crowds, who were waiting to be taken to their villages by buses and taxis that appeared unlikely to come.

"We are playing with our health by crowding railway stations and bus stands," Modi said in a tweet.

Indian Railways later suspended all passenger train services until March 31, although freight services will continue. It was unclear what this would mean for people stranded at railway stations.

In recent days, migrant workers hauling backpacks have swarmed overcrowded trains across many Indian cit-

ies, an exodus among panic-stricken day laborers that has sparked fears the virus could spread to the countryside.

The typical bustle of New Delhi, meanwhile, was otherwise silent on Sunday, with nearly empty buses and taxis plying the city's lightly trafficked roads, gates to public gardens, temples and churches locked, and building guards with scarves tied around their faces seated outside on plastic chairs watching empty streets.

A road in New Delhi near a Sufi shrine where hundreds of pilgrims often camp was empty except for an occasional passing car.

While some Indian states had already issued stay-in-place orders and closed borders, Sunday was India's first nationwide effort at social isolation practices that the World Health Organization believes are critical to flattening the infection curve worldwide.

World

Virus rebels from France to Florida flout lockdown practices

PARIS (AP)—Young German adults hold “corona parties” and cough toward older people. A Spanish man leashes a goat to go for a walk to skirt confinement orders. From France to Florida to Australia, kite-surfers, college students and others crowd the beaches.

Their defiance of lockdown mandates and scientific advice to fight the coronavirus pandemic has prompted crackdowns by authorities on people trying to escape cabin fever brought on by virus restrictions. In some cases, the virus rebels resist—threatening police as officials express outrage over public gatherings that could spread the virus.

“Some consider they’re little heroes when they break the rules,” French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said. “Well, no. You’re an imbecile, and especially a threat to yourself.”

After days of noncompliance by people refusing to stay home and venture out only for essential tasks, France on Friday sent security forces into train stations to prevent people from traveling to their vacation homes, potentially carrying the virus to the countryside or beaches where medical facilities are less robust. The popular Paris walkway along the Seine River was closed

and a nightly curfew was imposed in the French Mediterranean city of Nice by Mayor Christian Estrosi, who is infected with the virus.

Florida officials closed some of the state’s most popular beaches after images of rowdy spring break college crowds appeared on TV for days amid the rising global death toll, which surpassed 13,000 on Sunday. Australia closed Sydney’s famous Bondi Beach after police were outraged at pictures of the crowds.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that people from 18-to-49 account for more than half of the state’s coronavirus cases, warning them “you’re not Superman, and you’re not Superwoman.”

Many people were not complying with social distancing recommendations to stay away from each other in New York City’s vast city park network ahead of a ban on congregating in groups that goes into effect Sunday night, Cuomo said.

“You can wind up hurting someone who you love, or hurting someone wholly inadvertently. Social distancing works, and you need social distancing everywhere,” Cuomo warned.

As new coronavirus cases in China dropped to zero several

days in a row, the chief medical officer for the International Clinic of Wuhan was alarmed at those elsewhere refusing to follow rules to contain the virus. Dr. Philippe Klein said people should look to China’s confinement of tens of millions as an example to emulate “with courage, with patience, with solidarity.”

“I exhort you, the French,

to apply the rules in our way,” said Klein, who is French.

Worldwide, over 307,000 people have been infected. For most, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. But it can cause more severe illness in others, especially older adults and people with existing health conditions. Some 92,000 people have recovered, mostly in

China, where the virus first struck late last year.

The virus rebels tend to range from restless teens to wealthy adults who can travel to their getaway homes. Even in Italy, where the virus death toll soared beyond China’s last week, authorities are still trying to rein in people from going outside for fresh air, sun and visits with friends to

escape walled-in lives.

French farmers’ markets where people congregate to shop for food have posed a special challenge for police trying to keep people apart from each other at the recommended 2 meters (6 feet), along with neglected urban housing projects where distrust and disobedience of authorities runs deep.



Cece Guida, 19, top, of New York City, pushes on Sam Reddick, 20, of Evansville, Ind., as spring break revelers look on during a game of chicken fight on the beach, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in Pompano Beach, Fla. AP

As virus spreads, Africa gets supplies from China’s Jack Ma

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—With the coronavirus increasing its spread across Africa, the continent received a much-needed care package from Chinese billionaire Jack Ma.

A cargo flight containing more than 6 million medical items arrived Sunday in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. The supplies from Ma, the founder of China’s e-commerce giant Alibaba, will be distributed to African countries in need of supplies to battle the spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

An Ethiopian Airlines cargo flight from Guangzhou, China arrived with 5.4 million face masks, 1.08 million testing kits, 40,000 sets of protective clothing and 60,000 protective face shields, according to Ethiopian officials and the Jack Ma Foundation.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week pledged to distribute the supplies to other countries in Africa. Ma has sent similar shipments of medical supplies to countries in Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America.

The virus has been relatively slow to reach Africa

but has now spread to at least 43 of the continent’s 54 countries, with more than 1,100 cases confirmed. In response many African countries are imposing restrictions.

Mozambique confirmed its first case Sunday and cancelled all visas to the country, closed schools and banned gatherings of more than 50 people.

Kenya announced new restrictions Sunday, after it confirmed eight new cases, bringing its total to 15. It closed all bars and restaurants as of midnight Sunday and halted all services at churches and mosques, saying that houses of worship had not implemented safe social distancing. Kenya also suspended all international passenger flights effective Wednesday and closed the border posts to neighboring Uganda, except for the transport of cargo.

In Burkina Faso, the U.S. ambassador, Andrew Young, announced on his personal Twitter account Sunday that he has tested positive for the virus. He is in quarantine and local sources say he has not gone to a hospital.

Burkina Faso has 75 cases

and four deaths as of Sunday, one of the highest number of deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

Young is the first U.S. ambassador to say that he has tested positive for COVID-19 and the second ambassador in Burkina Faso to contract the virus, according to diplomats. Earlier this week Italian ambassador, Andrea Romussi, told AP he was positive, but was feeling fine. Burkina Faso’s government has also been badly impacted by the virus with at least four Cabinet ministers confirmed as positive.

Burkina Faso’s president on Saturday announced a curfew and shut the borders for two weeks, but health officials are concerned the number of cases will grow exponentially in the coming weeks and could worsen the West African country’s already dire humanitarian crisis.

Almost 800,000 people are internally displaced due to attacks linked to Islamic militants and more than 2 million people are in need of aid.

“The number of high level officials and VIPs who have tested positive is a concern, but I hope that this does not distract from the fact that

this virus is indiscriminate in who it will infect,” said Jackie MacLeod, head of mission for the International Rescue Committee in Burkina Faso. “We need to make sure that while this will bring more attention to Burkina Faso, this attention should not have an adverse affect on the humanitarian community’s ability to safely and responsibly deliver aid to people who do not have access to same level of care as Ambassador Young.”

Rwanda and Tunisia have announced lockdowns, ordering people to stay at home except for essential reasons.

Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country with 190 million people, just three weeks ago announced the first coronavirus case in sub-Saharan Africa. Now with 22 cases, it stopped all incoming international flights on Saturday.

Ethiopian Airlines and South African Airways, two of Africa’s largest airlines, announced sweeping cancellations of international flights. South Africa has stopped allowing foreigners to disembark from incoming international flights.

Croatia quake injures 17 amid partial coronavirus lockdown

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—A strong earthquake in Croatia on Sunday caused panic, the evacuation of hospitals and widespread damage including to the capital’s iconic cathedral—all amid a partial coronavirus lockdown.

A 15-year-old was reported to be in critical condition and 16 other people were injured, authorities said.

The European seismological agency, EMSC, said the 5.3 earthquake struck a wide area north of the capital, Zagreb, at 6:23 a.m. (0523 GMT). The epicenter was 7 kilometers (4 miles) north of Zagreb at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

At least four weaker tremors followed the initial quake. Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said the earthquake was the biggest in Zagreb in the last 140 years.

Many buildings cracked and walls and rooftops were damaged. Streets were littered with debris. Concrete slabs fell on cars and chimneys landed in front of entrances.

Footage from the scene showed mothers dressed in

nightgowns hugging their newborn babies in a parking lot as they evacuated a damaged maternity hospital amid freezing temperatures. The women, newborn babies and incubators were being moved to a new location with the help of the army.

Zagreb’s iconic cathedral was also damaged, with the top of one of its two spires collapsing. The cathedral was rebuilt after it toppled in the 1880 earthquake.

Power was cut as people ran out of their homes. Several fires were also reported. Residents shared photos of belongings falling off shelves, broken bottles and glass inside homes.

Officials first said a 15-year-old was killed, but doctors later said that she was in critical condition and that they were fighting to save her life. They gave no immediate details on the extent of other injuries.

The earthquake struck amid a partial lockdown of the capital because of the spread of the coronavirus. People were told to avoid public areas, such as parks and public squares, but had little choice as they fled their residences.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three weeks ago, EmpireCLS was heading toward a second straight year of record business. A car service company in New Jersey, Empire couldn't even find enough chauffeurs and office workers to meet its needs.

Now? With stunning speed, business in the United States—as well as in Europe and elsewhere—has collapsed in the face of the coronavirus and warnings for everyone to stay home. Suddenly, no one needs a chauffeur.

"We went from full throttle to 90% revenue loss in three weeks," said CEO David Seelinger. "We've been through 9/11. We've seen recessions. We've never seen anything like this."

Seelinger spent last Sunday laying off 750 of his 900 employees.

"It was the most difficult day of my career," he said.

Never before has the U.S. economy screeched to such a sudden, violent stop. Its shutdown has inflicted a case of whiplash on Americans who had enjoyed a decade-plus of gains from the job market, the stock market and a steady economic expansion. The economy is cratering into what looks like a deep recession. Millions will likely lose jobs by summer.

"The economy has never gone from healthy to disaster so quickly," said Jason Furman, who was President Barack Obama's top economic adviser and is now a professor at Harvard's Kennedy School.

"In the financial crisis," Furman noted, "the housing bubble burst in 2006, the first financial tremors were in 2007 and the major financial events were spread out from February through September of 2008. What would take years in a financial crisis has happened in days in this health crisis."

Since the Great Recession ended in 2009, the economy has risen for a record 11 years. It hasn't exactly been a boom. Annual growth has averaged a decent but unspectacular 2.3% since 2010. Yet the expansion has been solid and durable. Employers have added jobs for 113 straight months, the longest such streak on record.

Just two weeks ago, the government delivered a blockbuster employment report: A healthy gain of 273,000 of jobs in February. A 3.5% unemployment rate, a 50-year low.

What's more, public confidence was up. Consumers were spending. Incomes were rising. Layoffs were rare.

In just a couple of weeks,



AP
A pedestrian walks past a boarded up Wine and Spirits store in Philadelphia, Friday, March 20, 2020.

Whiplash: All at once, a steady US economy screeches to halt

it's all ended with the shutdown of most business activity nationwide, and a destructive recession seems inevitable. Goldman Sachs expects the economy to shrink at a sickening 24% annual rate in the April-June quarter. That would be, by far, the worst quarterly drop on record. Just days before, Goldman had projected a 5% annual drop in that period.

This week, economists say the government could report that up to 3 million people applied for unemployment benefits last week, which would easily set a record. IHS Markit predicts 7 million job losses from April to June and for unemployment to shoot to 8.8% by late this year. Other economists see joblessness going much higher than that.

As investors have grasped the depth of the crisis, panic selling has set in. Since Feb. 12, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has plunged 35%, wiping out vast household wealth and likely undermining people's confidence and willingness to spend.

"I'm not sure that anyone honestly has any sense of how this ultimately resolves and

on what sort of timetable," said Daniel Feldman, a former U.S. diplomat who counsels corporations for the law firm Covington & Burling.

Policymakers are straining to help. The Federal Reserve has slashed its benchmark interest rate to near zero and is trying to ensure that companies maintain access to the short-term credit they need for payrolls and other expenses. Congress and the White House are preparing an enormous stimulus program that includes sending checks to households and ensuring some paid sick and family leave.

Typically, economists don't recognize a recession until long after it's begun, the warning signs apparent only in hindsight.

"Never in the course of my career have I known the week a recession started," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at the accounting and consulting firm Grant Thornton, who calculates that the downturn began in the first week of March as the economy all but locked down.

At Stuyvesant Plaza, an office complex and shopping center outside Albany, New York, sales from shops, restau-

rants and fitness centers had posted double-digit increases in January and February.

And then "the world turned upside down," said Ed Swyer, president of the plaza.

Now, he's waiving rent for two weeks for his 60 tenants, hoping to help them survive. The restaurants, in particular, are suffering from New York state's order to close all eateries except take-out and delivery. Swyer is offering no-interest loans to some of the businesses.

"I feel like it's a bottomless pit, and we just don't know how bad it is and what the duration is," he said.

A few weeks ago, said Nicholas Calio, CEO of Airlines for America, an industry association and lobbying group, airlines were running 85% to 100% full. Now, their occupancy rates are 15% to 20%. Recently, he traveled on a plane with just 15 passengers.

And until the virus paralyzed the economy, Samantha Martin's PR business was soaring. At Toy Fair, an industry expo—"my Super Bowl"—"we were bopping up and down aisles like nothing was happening."

Then jittery clients started sending emails. PR and marketing expenses are often the first budget item that struggling companies cut. Martin offered clients discounts. And she asked her 16 staffers to take a 25% pay cut.

Most of her clients are staying put, for now. But Martin says she now wakes up with a knot in her stomach.

The shutdown of restaurants has stifled sales at D'Artagnan, a wholesaler of high-end meat products that supplies the food service business.

"We're going to go from 8% growth to a huge decline," said Andy Wertheim, president of the company in Union, New Jersey.

Automakers, too, are reeling. Until last week, the research firm Cox Automotive was forecasting 16.6 million new-vehicle sales this year, down only slightly from 2019. Now, said Michelle Krebs, a Cox analyst, it appears sales could drop as low as 14 million.

"Things are changing by the hour," said Jeff Aznavorian, president of Clips & Clamps, a Michigan auto supplier.

Orders and shipments might hit zero next week. Aznavorian worries about his cash flow. Even when sales eventually rebound, he won't be collecting customer payments for months. He's having trouble sleeping.

"I feel the freight train coming at me," he said.

For now, many U.S. households are coping—working from home and still holding on to jobs. Some of them may even be managing to save money, "which will give us more resources later," said Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics at Moody's Analytics.

Yet for much of America, the picture is bleak. Roughly 82 million people—three-fifths of the U.S. workforce—are hourly employees. Most of them won't be paid if they don't work. They have rents to pay and food to buy. And it's still unclear what financial aid the federal government will provide.

"They're scrambling and at financial risk," Hoyt said.

Nevin Muni, a part-time sales associate for T.J. Maxx in Astoria, Queens, was barely managing even before the store announced it was shutting down. The store had been cutting her hours because of a plunge in customers amid the virus crisis. Her manager called Thursday to tell her the store would close until further notice, with no guarantee that she'll be recalled to work.

"I'm so worried because I don't know long this is going to last," said Muni, who plans to apply for unemployment benefits.

Maggie Pouncey, owner of Stories children's bookshop in Brooklyn, had been looking toward celebrating her store's four-year anniversary with a big bash in April on Independent Bookstore Day. She'd been hoping to begin using a truck to take books and services to schools around the city.

The bash is off. Pouncey canceled all her programming—the story times, the writing workshops, the author readings—that is vital to her business in the age of Amazon.

She'll open her shop for pick-up orders one final time before closing—temporarily, she hopes. And she's told customers and her staff that she can't guarantee the store will survive the crisis.

"If it's one month of this, that's one thing," Pouncey said. "If it's four months, it's another."

Overdrive

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

TUCSON—The Honda CR-V is all grown up. The unassuming little model that confused many buyers when it debuted in 1997 with less off-road or towing capacity than other SUVs is now effectively Honda's flagship. The CR-V outsold the Accord midsize sedan by 116,601 last year, and a loaded hybrid Touring model stickers at \$35,950, a cool \$660 above the Accord hybrid Touring.

CR-V hybrid prices start at \$27,750. All-wheel drive is standard.

And people are gonna snap 'em up like the last roll of twoply at Walmart.

The CR-V shares its hybrid system with the Accord. The EPA rates it at 40 mpg in the city, 35 on the highway and 38 combined—head-turning figures for a compact AWD SUV, but short of the 40 mpg that two key competitors, the Ford Escape and Toyota RAV4 hybrids, notched in combined driving.

Two miles a gallon looks like a lot, but the mpg difference probably amounts to less than \$40 a year in fuel costs, hardly a deal breaker.

Driving impressions

Honda doesn't quite say "the data doesn't matter," as the long gone and unlamented CEO of another automaker once did in a presentation, but it comes close, touting the CR-V's performance, quiet operation and fuel

economy in real-world driving, as opposed to the lab tests used to generate EPA ratings. Honda's wishes notwithstanding, EPA figures are the ones to use when shopping.

My skepticism notwithstanding, I averaged about 40 mpg in a day of driving on suburban and country roads outside Tucson, Arizona. I didn't have the chance to drive in stop-and-go city driving, where the hybrid would probably have been most efficient.

Acceleration is confident, thanks to 212 total horsepower from the gasoline engine and electric motor. Peak torque of 232 pound-feet comes from the electric motor at zero to 2,000 rpm.

The engine and motor are

smoothly integrated so driving the CR-V hybrid feels just like a conventional gasoline vehicle.

Combine that with smooth auto-stop at traffic lights and unobtrusive shifts to all-electric power for short distances at low speed and it's entirely possible some drivers won't even realize it's a hybrid.

The CR-V hybrid is considerably more powerful than the gasoline model, which is rated at 190 hp and 179 pound-feet of torque.

The steering is firm and direct. Like the drivetrain, the brakes feel just like a normal vehicle, blending conventional braking and regeneration to charge the battery seamlessly.

A pair of steering wheel paddles allow you to increase regenerative braking and use the pedal less. They provide a noticeable difference, but fall short of the level of deceleration provided by competitors' "one pedal" settings that allow the driver to virtually ignore

the brake pedal.

The all-wheel-drive system uses a conventional mechanical connection between the engine and rear wheels, unlike the RAV4 hybrid's self-contained electrically powered rear axle.

The AWD system shifts power from front to rear wheels smoothly and quickly in sand and other low-traction conditions.

Roomy and comfortable

The CR-V's 102.9 cubic-foot passenger compartment—105.9 if you get the base LX model, which doesn't have a sunroof—is exceptionally roomy, with best-in-class passenger space and the lowest cargo floor for easy access to loads.

The lithium-ion battery is mounted under the rear seat, so it doesn't reduce cargo space, which is rated at 33.2 cubic feet behind the rear seat, 68.7 with it folded flat.

The interior gets a few changes from non-hybrid models, including a push-button gear selector; gauges that include hybrid efficiency modes; relocated and lighted USB ports; and an optional wireless charging pad.

Most noteworthy is a new center console that provides storage for larger items thanks to clever tweaks.

- 2020 Honda CR-V hybrid at a glance
- Price range: \$27,750-\$35,950 (excluding destination charges)
- Hybrid all-wheel-drive compact five-passenger SUV
- 212 total horsepower from electric motor and 2.0L gasoline engine
- 232 pound-feet of torque from electric motor at 0-2,000 rpm
- Transmission: Continuously variable automatic
- EPA: 40 mpg city/35 highway/38 combined
- Wheelbase: 104.7 inches
- Length: 182.1
- Width: 73.0
- Height: 66.5
- Curb weight: 3,649-3,763 lbs.

AUTO REVIEW:

Honda CR-V hybrid

boosts mpg,
offers smooth
performance



2020 Honda CR-V Hybrid (HONDA)

Under the Hood: Do not ignore your check engine light

Q: How serious is it to drive with your check engine light on? My car starts and runs perfect so it can't be something very serious? Everyone I've asked tells me something different.

A: Your MIL (malfunction indicator lamp) illuminates to advise you that your OBD-II (on-board diagnostics) system has identified a fault or condition that will likely increase emissions 1 1/2 times beyond the federal test procedure standard.

Powertrain diagnostic trouble codes (DTCs are a five digit code beginning with a P, such as P0440) are the only vehicle faults that will cause the check engine or service en-

gine soon lamp to illuminate. Body, chassis and network codes will likely go unnoticed unless a scan tool is used to check for them. The term powertrain includes engine, fuel, ignition, emission control systems and transmission.

Depending on the vehicle, any of a sizable portion of the 1688 listed powertrain diagnostic trouble codes could be the culprit, so taking a guess without retrieving DTCs is quite a long shot! Here are the five most common check engine light causes:

■ Failed oxygen sensor (about 8% of all issues, average cost to repair: \$260)

■ Catalytic converter degraded/failed (about 7% of all

issues, average cost to repair: \$1200)

■ Faulty spark plugs and ignition coils (about 6% of all issues, average cost to repair: \$400)

■ Loose or faulty gas cap (about 4% of all issues, average cost to repair: \$20)

■ Faulty mass airflow sensor (about 4% of all issues, average cost to repair: \$380)

Other common causes are faulty sensors, solenoids, wiring connection faults, dirty fuel injectors or leaky manifold gaskets.

So, is it OK to keep driving with an illuminated MIL? No! As simple as it is to determine which code(s) may be present, it just isn't worth

the risk of possibly damaging the engine, transmission or catalytic converter.

If an engine starts and runs well, and the transmission shifts normally, the odds of a damaging condition are quite low, but is the average driver really tuned in closely to normal operation? I can think of one case where a misfire developed and wasn't noticed during a long highway trip (larger engine/many cylinders, began with a slight thumping/roughness). The continued misfire torched the catalytic converter, resulting in a severe exhaust restriction, which led to engine overheating and massive failure. That was a \$10,000 oops!

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



OBD-II generic code readers are now so inexpensive (Autel MS309, \$25, is a good choice) and easy to use, it makes complete sense to find a friend that has one, stop by an auto parts store for a free check, or purchase one in order to find out the facts. An online list such as www.obd-codes.com can be used to determine the general cause and seriousness of the issue. Keep in mind that throwing a part at

a problem without following the DTC diagnostic chart is pound foolish. This might be OK in the case of a failed oxygen or air-fuel sensor heater (a very high probability it's the sensor's heater that's failed), but no-no-no when it comes to a fuel trim code, for example.

A final note: A flashing MIL is big trouble that should be fixed right away. This indicates a catalyst threatening misfire is occurring!

Life & Style

Plácido Domingo has coronavirus amid Spain outbreak

MADRID (AP)—Plácido Domingo announced Sunday that he has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The 79-year-old opera singer's illness comes after his own glittering career had recently been stained by sexual misconduct revelations.

The Spaniard said in a post on his personal Facebook account that "I feel it is my moral duty to announce to you that I have tested positive."

The tenor says he and his family are in self-isolation and that he is feeling well despite having fever and a cough.

"I beg everyone to be extremely careful, follow the basic guidelines by washing your hands frequently, keeping at least a 6 foot distance from others, doing everything you can to stop the virus from spreading and please above all stay home if you can!" he said.

Last year, multiple women accused Domingo of harassment and abusing his power while he held management positions at Los Angeles Opera and Washington National Opera in stories published by



Domingo

The Associated Press.

After first denying any wrongdoing, Domingo issued an apology last month when the American Guild of Musical Artists and LA Opera found the sexual harassment

allegations against him to be credible.

He has since had a number of performances canceled. He also resigned as the director of the LA Opera.

Spain is the third hardest-

hit country after China and Italy with 28,572 infections and 1,720 deaths in the virus outbreak.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever or coughing. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. Some 93,800 people have recovered, mostly in China.

Phone call between Kanye West, Taylor Swift again roils net

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift may have ended her feud with Katy Perry but the one with Kanye West seems simply not to want to die.

New leaked video clip of the entire four-year-old phone call between the rapper and pop superstar about his controversial song "Famous" have been posted online and further complicate the picture of what happened.

In "Famous," West raps: "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex, Why? I made that bitch famous." Upon its release in 2016, West was condemned by many for the line. He insisted Swift had given her blessing to the lyric. But she denied ever hearing the lyric "I made that bitch famous."

The new clips seem to cor-

roborate Swift's claims that West didn't tell her the full lyrics of the song. But they also show West repeatedly asking Taylor for her approval of the sex lyric and she does tell him she thinks it's funny, just as the rapper said when it the song first was released.

"I never would have expected you to tell me about a line in one of your songs," Swift tells him. "That's really nice that you did."

This new footage was posted online from an unknown source late Friday night and rapidly spread across social media. Unlike other videos previously posted of the call, it shows all 25 minutes, albeit chopped up.

Representative for either artists did not immediately reply to a request for comment Saturday.

Michelle Obama, Oprah, more joined an epic (virtual) party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The hottest party in town Saturday night was on DJ D-Nice's Instagram, where over 100,000 accounts tuned in during his epic 10-hour set including the likes of Michelle Obama, Oprah, Rihanna and Will Smith.

Oprah tweeted that it was the "best party of 1 and 100K

I've ever been to," Smith expressed a similar sentiment.

As the world practices social distancing to slow the spread of the coronavirus, many have been looking for ways to hang out virtually and D-Nice's joyous dance party proved to be just the ticket.

D-Nice has been hosting Club Quarantine parties on his Instagram Live since Wednesday, but it hit a peak Saturday night, attracting entertainers, athletes and politicians to the account, like Missy Elliott, Ellen DeGeneres, Mark Zuckerberg and Magic Johnson.

Presidential hopefuls Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders also stopped by the virtual

party, as did Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

Pop superstar Rihanna donates \$5 million to relief efforts

From finding ways to help others cope to sheltering in place to canceling events, here's a look at some of the ways the entertainment industry is reacting to the spread of the coronavirus, which most people recover from but can cause severe illness in the elderly and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Rihanna opens her wallet

Rihanna's Clara Lionel Foundation is giving \$5 million to the response efforts against the coronavirus.

The money will support "on-the-ground partners working on the frontlines of disaster response especially those focused on protecting and serving marginalized communities—helping the most vulnerable in the United States, the Caribbean and in Africa prepare for what

is to come," the foundation said in a statement.

The funding will be channeled through Direct Relief, Partners In Health, Feeding America, the International Rescue Committee, the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund and others.

"Never has it been more important or urgent to protect and prepare marginalized and underserved communities — those who will be hit hardest by this pandemic," CLF's executive director Justine Lucas said in the statement.

The money will go to food banks, testing, healthcare worker training, virus prevention and distribution of critical respiratory supplies.

Bespoke face masks coming

Hospitals and health care

workers in New York without enough face masks to deal with the coronavirus are being promised help from someone more famous for his red carpet looks.

Christian Siriano in a tweet vowed to make masks, asking his sewing team to pump them out to help medical responders. The tweet got Gov. Andrew Cuomo's attention, who thanked the "Project Runway" star and got in touch with his team.

Siriano later posted a photo of a mask in a plastic bag and captioned it: "Prototypes are happening—more updates by next week."

Second Broadway casualty

A revival of Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" will not reopen when Broadway resumes performances, a second play to call it quits as the theater world grapples with the fallout over the coronavirus.

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starred Laurie Metcalf as Martha and Rupert Everett as George. It managed just nine previews before Broadway was shuttered on March 12. Producers early Saturday blamed "cast scheduling conflicts amid the shutdown" for abandoning the show.

The move came a day after producers of Martin McDonagh's dark comedy "Hangmen" said that show also will not reopen on Broadway.

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Hangmen" were two of 16 shows that were scheduled to open this spring that were suspended when Broadway went dark. (PR)

Couple's views on one issue diverge and threaten future

DEAR ABBY: After an abusive relationship ended 14 years ago, I stayed single and raised my small son to adulthood. I dated here and there, but never found anyone I had serious feelings for who also felt the same way about me until seven months ago.

My feelings for my boyfriend are strong, and it's mutual. He is giving, kind, caring, hardworking and protective. We are very much in love. He tells me he feels like he can be himself around me, something he has never had before. I've never had anyone care so much about my well-being.

We talk about everything and differ on only one point so far. I'm in education and an LGBTQ ally. He feels strongly that nature dictates that only a man and a woman belong together, and he says he hates gay people. (We both grew up in very small, conservative communities.)

Now that my son is older, I plan to use my experiences to be a stronger voice on education issues regarding tolerance and improving learning outcomes for all by instilling conflict resolution principles in my educational practices. I'm not changing my view on this, but I want to continue for us to love and support each other.

Should I tell my boyfriend I understand where he's coming from based upon where and how we were raised? Do you think down the road our basic principles will drive us apart? We have been talking about buying a house in the country together, al-

though neither of us has intentions of marriage anytime soon.

HESITATING IN ILLINOIS

DEAR HESITATING: You should absolutely talk to your boyfriend about your plan to become an outspoken LGBTQ ally and more active in your profession. When you become more visible, do you plan to separate your career and your personal life? It appears you are willing (and able) to respect him, and understand why he feels the way he does. But is he willing to do the same for you, and will his conservative convictions negatively affect how you plan to live your life?

It is VERY important that this issue be resolved BEFORE investing in real estate with him—as well as any more precious time. A professional mediator may be able to help with the conversation if you can't do this by yourselves.

DEAR ABBY: My two grandchildren, 12 and 16, used to spend a lot of time with my husband and me, staying overnight, going on trips, etc. As they have gotten older, I recognize that they will naturally want to spend less time with us old folks.

My problem is, when I send them texts to invite them for lunch or out somewhere for the day, they don't respond or just respond with an IDK (I don't know). My question: Should I ask again to get an answer before the scheduled lunch or trip,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

or should I just forget it and assume they don't want to be involved with us?

SAD MEMAW IN FLORIDA

DEAR SAD: You have asked an intelligent question, but you are asking the wrong person. The people you should be asking are your grandchildren, and when you do, it should be face-to-face.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



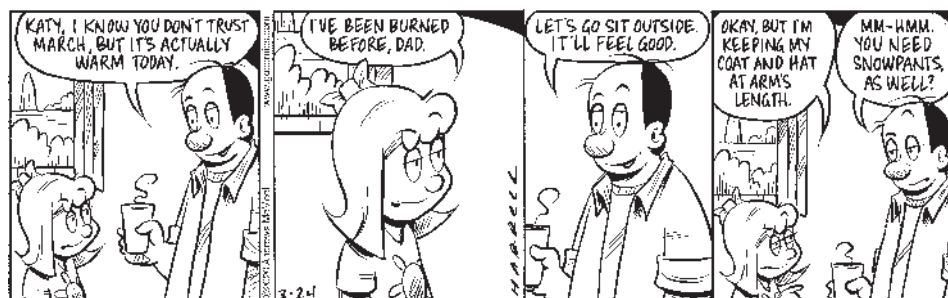
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Serb or Croat
5 Tax prep pro
8 James of "The Godfather"
12 Leslie Caron film
13 Onassis nickname
14 Golden Rule preposition
15 Beatnik's assent
16 Not extreme
18 Small amount
20 Birth-related
21 — Alamos
22 Iota
23 Brag
26 Gallo winery setting
30 Moreover
31 Salary
32 Born abroad?
33 Decorum
36 Parceled (out)

DOWN

1 Slender
2 Chic beach resort
3 "Put — on it!"
4 Candle-light ceremonies
5 "The Stranger" author
6 Senior moment?
7 Succor
8 Organize an art show
9 Body sci.
10 "— girl!"
11 Yuletide tune
17 Oklahoma city
19 Guest's bed
22 Lad
23 "Kapow!"
24 Music's Yoko
25 Do sums
26 Spring month
27 NBC weekend show
28 Casual shirt
29 British ref. work
31 School org.
34 Bothers
35 Cager O'Neal, for short
36 Pop
37 Black Sea port
39 Ancient manuscript
40 Singer
41 Zilch
42 Notion
43 — Hari
44 Lounge
45 Not us
46 Lays down the lawn
48 Web address

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	E	S	H	B	M	W	S	P	A	M
E	L	L	A	E	L	I	U	R	S	A
I	S	A	W	F	I	S	H	N	E	T
R	E	P	A	I	R	P	A	S	S	A
C	A	B	I	N	E	T	S	T	R	E
U	R	L	T	N	O	T	E	V	A	L
B	E	E	S	D	R	A	G	N	E	T
S	T	U	F	R	A	G	O			
A	R	S	O	R	T	O	P	I	A	T
R	A	Y	C	O	N	F	T	S	R	O
B	L	O	G		T	R	U		O	B
A	D	U	E		H	I	P		B	C

Yesterday's answer 3-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peyton Manning, 44; Alyson Hannigan, 46; Jim Parsons, 47; Louie Anderson, 67.

Happy Birthday: Slow down, and enjoy what life has to offer. You don't have to be superhuman. Impulsive actions will lead to trouble. Strategize first and act later. Look inward, ask yourself hard questions and formulate what you truly want to pursue. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way, and reassure the people you love how much you care. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 24, 38, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Idle time will make you anxious. Sign up for something that requires physical exertion or is mentally challenging. If you share secrets with others, they will be made public. Self-improvement is favored, and adjustments you make physically or emotionally will enhance your life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your life simple and your thoughts to yourself, and put in the maximum time to reach your goal. A disciplined attitude will help you bypass getting tied up in someone's drama. Stick to your game plan. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your skills to work. Offer to help someone who has something you want in return. A sensitive approach to situations of an emotional nature will help you gain acceptance. Charm, along with compassion, will convince others to see things your way. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't take on a responsibility that will push you past your comfort zone. Avoid interfering in

other people's affairs or letting someone meddle in yours. Do what you can to keep the peace. Focus on personal improvements, love and happiness. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A commitment will show someone how much you care and what you are willing to do. Plan a trip, set up a meeting or discuss your long-term intentions. Take affirmative action, and get involved in competitive activities that will boost your ego. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Say no to someone looking for a handout. Taking on someone's misfortune will not solve the problem, but it will cause stress. Make suggestions, and go about your business. Don't fall for unrealistic or false advertising. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will surface, causing relationship problems. Gather facts, and put a plan in place before you get involved in a discussion that can determine your fate. Put your energy into something that motivates you or a job that can bring high returns. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Finish what you start. Share your ideas with someone who is well-connected, and it will help you put together a package that highlights your skills. Good fortune is heading in your direction. Make the most of what you've got. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick to your plan, use your skills and don't get involved with people who talk big and do little. Feeling apologetic or being overindulgent will not help you get things done. Property enhancement or a geographical move look favorable. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Present what you have to offer. Your intent should be to separate yourself from the competition. Stifle emotional matters that might get in your way. Rely on experience and knowledge when faced with opposition. Bigger doesn't always mean better. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Find a way to contribute to something you believe in or that you want to change. An adjustment will be necessary; do your homework, and you'll discover what's required. Take demonstrative action, and you'll make a difference. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at all sides of a situation, but when it comes down to making a decision, follow your intuition. A realistic budget will ease stress and help you save for something you want. Personal improvements, romance and change are encouraged. ***

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, cooperative and helpful. You are unique and tolerant.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6		1		3	2				5
				1					
		8				7			4
2			3		4			6	
9				7					8
	8		6		9				3
5		9				8			
					6				
8			5	2		4			7

Difficulty Level ★★

3/24

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	7	6	3	1	4	5	2
2	4	6	9	5	8	1	7	3
3	1	5	2	7	4	6	9	8
1	2	4	3	8	7	9	6	5
5	8	9	1	6	2	7	3	4
7	6	3	5	4	9	2	8	1
4	7	1	8	9	3	5	2	6
9	5	8	4	2	6	3	1	7
6	3	2	7	1	5	8	4	9

Not Truly Level A

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DESIGNER SUNGLASSES

Solution: 10 letters

E P E S H I E L D C H A N E L
G F R T G C S M I R N O O A T
A R O T A I V A I E M O T R G
T A I S B K A R A J E C R A I
N M R T B P E R R E I R A M V
I E A M A Y R R E B R U B X E
V E G I N M V L P R A D A A N
A N L C A E O A R M A N I M C
N I V H G S S L S L D R O F A H
G L B A R U P A C E W E A R Y
E E Y E S I C A C H N I E C E
Z C P L T M O C D D I T D I L
R O L O C U A V I E R N I A K
C H L O E I C E K O R S O N A
Y N K D D M H N A B Y A R O O

© 2000 King Features Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderword.com

3/24

Armani, Aviator, Barton, Burberry, BVLGARI, Case, Céline, Chanel, Chloe, Coach, Color, Cute, Dior, DKNY, Dolce, Eyes, Fendi, Ford, Frame, Gabbana, Givenchy, Gucci, Kara, Kate, Kors, Marciano, Maui Jim, Max Mara, Michael, Miu Miu, Moschino, Oakley, Perreira, Persol, Prada, RAEN, RayBan, Retro, Rims, Shield, Spade, Tom, Valentino, Versace, Vintage, Wear, Zegna

Yesterday's Answer: Passengers

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Tokyo Olympics seem sure to happen, in 2021

TOKYO (AP)—The Tokyo Olympics are going to happen—but almost surely in 2021 rather than in four months as planned.

This became clear after the IOC on Sunday announced it was considering a postponement. Major Olympic nations like Canada and Australia have added pressure by saying they will not go if the games are staged this year.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach sent a letter to athletes explaining the decision and why it might take so long, while also acknowledging the extended timeline might not be popular.

"I know that this unprecedented situation leaves many of your questions open," he wrote. "I also know that this rational approach may not be in line with the emotions many of you have to go through."

The IOC's move seemed inevitable for a week with pressure mounting from all quarters—athletes, sponsors, broadcasters and more than 200 national Olympic committees, and international sports federations.

Shortly after Bach's statement, the Canadian Olympic Committee said it won't send teams to the Olympics unless the games are postponed by a year. Australia issued a statement saying it was advising its athletes to prepare for an Olympics in 2021.

The Australian committee's executive board agreed unanimously that "an Australian Team could not be assembled in the changing circumstances at home and abroad."

World Athletics President Seb Coe sent a letter to Bach saying that holding the Olympics in July "is neither feasible nor desirable." He outlined a number of reasons, including competitive fairness, the likelihood athletes would overtrain if given a compressed schedule and the uncertainty caused by orders in many countries barring people from gyms and other workout venues.

National Olympic committees in Brazil and Slovenia had also called for postponement until 2021. Norway's Olympic body said it did not want athletes going to Tokyo until the global health crisis is under control.

The United States governing bodies of swimming and track—two of the three top-tier Summer Games sports—had called on their national Olympic officials to push for a postponement.

Earlier, a worldwide group representing Olympic hopefuls is calling on the IOC to postpone the Tokyo Olympics until the coronavirus pandemic



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at a parliamentary session in Tokyo Monday, March 23, 2020. Abe said a postponement of Tokyo Olympics would be unavoidable if the games cannot be held in a complete way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

city of Tokyo.

Japan is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, but a national audit put the figure at more than twice that much. The bill is sure to increase with any postponement, and the vast majority of the spending if from the public treasury.

The IOC has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion to tide itself over, and also has insurance against postponement or cancellation.

"The public is expecting and supports postponement, so it won't be a big deal," Jeff Kingston, who studies Japanese politics at Temple University in Tokyo, said in an email to Associated Press. "People are way more worried about the economic consequences and their jobs and if the number of cases ramps."

Former IOC marketing director Michael Payne said the delay might work to the advantage of the IOC and Japan.

"What better platform is there going to be than the Olympic Games when the world has pulled through the virus," Payne told AP in an interview Sunday, just before the IOC announcement. "You've got a dynamic that will be even more powerful for Japan and the rest of the world. But you are going to have a tough road getting there."

ic is under control.

"As the world unites to limit the spread of COVID-19 virus, the IOC ... must do the same," Global Athlete said in a news release Sunday.

The group's director general, Rob Koehler, reacted to that news, saying it was "unacceptable, irresponsible, and once again ignores athletes' rights."

He was echoing what some athletes in the group are saying, along with others who have spoken up on social media and elsewhere.

"It's bizarre the IOC hasn't shown any real leadership," said Caradh O'Donovan, a Global Athlete founder from Ireland whose karate training has been put on hold due to restrictions in her country. "They're acting as though it's business as usual and it just seems very strange."

O'Donovan said the unevenness around the globe regarding training, doping control and qualifying standards are among her key concerns.

"Without a clear answer, athletes are being indirectly asked to train," Koehler said. "If anyone knows how competitive athletes work, they will stop at nothing to achieve their goals. We understand it's a difficult decision but the IOC has a duty of care toward athletes which they have not exercised."

The group also called on broadcasters, specifically NBC, and sponsors to support the IOC and International Paralympic Committee "with

flexibility and understanding during these uncharted times."

"My dream is to go to the Olympics this year but it's an impossible task from my perspective and it's the same for a huge number of athletes," O'Donovan said. "I'd be absolutely stunned if they go on in July, as planned."

Japan's politicians fell in line quickly on Monday as they awakened to Bach's move.

Japan's Prime Minister

Shinzo Abe, speaking at a parliamentary session, said a postponement of the Tokyo Olympics

would be unavoidable if the games cannot be held in a complete way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"If it is difficult to hold (the Games) in a complete way, a decision of postponement would be unavoidable," he said.

Abe said he hoped the IOC would make a decision early if it is postponed, because the



Tennis tours stop until June; rankings frozen

NEW YORK (AP)—The ATP and WTA professional tennis tours suspended all competition through at least June 7 because of the new coronavirus pandemic and froze their rankings "until further notice."

In a rare joint statement by the men's and women's tours, they announced that the entire clay-court circuit "will not be held as scheduled"—a day after the start of the French Open, also played on that surface, was postponed from May to September.

The French tennis federation's go-it-alone decision to pick new dates and reschedule the beginning of its clay-court Grand Slam tournament for one week after the end of the hard-court U.S. Open in New York prompted some shade from the fractured sport's other governing bodies.

"Now is not a time to act unilaterally, but in unison," the ATP-WTA statement said. "All decisions related to the impact of the coronavirus require appropriate consultation and review with the stakeholders in the game."

It went on to say that is "a view that is shared by" the ATP, WTA, International Tennis Federation and the groups that run the U.S. Open, Wimbledon and Australian Open—the three non-French Grand Slam tournaments.

For most people, COVID-19 causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people

recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

As of now, the next major championship on the tennis calendar is Wimbledon, which is scheduled to start in England on June 29.

Its organizers and those in charge of the U.S. Open, which is slated to begin on Aug. 31, have said they are not yet ready to make any changes to their tournaments but are studying the matter.

Shortly after the ATP-WTA announcement, the ITF put a halt to its lower-tier events until June 7.

The tours said last week they would suspend play until late April or early May.

The tournaments affected by Wednesday's moves include combined men's and women's events in Madrid and Rome.

Also being scrapped are upcoming WTA tournaments in Strasbourg, France, and Rabat, Morocco, along with ATP events in Munich; Estoril, Portugal; Geneva; and Lyon, France.

With players unable to add points by winning matches, they won't lose them now, either, so will hold their current spots in the ATP and WTA rankings until June - and possibly beyond.

The rankings of June 8, which was supposed to be the day after the French Open concluded, were going to be the cutoff to help determine qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. It is not known whether that will change.



Brady makes one request after joining Bucs



FLORIDA—

The New England Patriots weren't able to keep Tom Brady this offseason. Or rather, they didn't do enough to keep Brady around. The 20-year member of the team elected to sign elsewhere this offseason and ultimately joined the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Over two years with the Bucs, Brady is set to make a maximum of \$60 million with \$50 million in guarantees. The terms of this contract are completely fair. And so was what he reportedly asked of the Bucs after they agreed to that contract.

According to Rick Stroud of The Tampa Bay Times, Brady had just one request for Tampa Bay after signing on to be their new quarterback.

Brady never asked for control of the offense. He knew that [Bruce] Arians, offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich, quarterbacks coach Clyde Christensen and special assistant Tom Moore would collaborate with him on game plans. He didn't ask for any specific players to join him. He didn't even ask to wear No. 12, which for the moment belongs to [Chris] Godwin.

In fact, there was only one request Brady had after he had signed: He wanted the phone numbers of all his new Bucs teammates.

Well, that's more than reasonable. And even though he didn't demand to wear No. 12, it seems that Godwin will consider giving it up if Brady wants it.

It's encouraging for the Buccaneers that Brady wants to get on the same page as his new teammates so quickly. It does make sense; after all, this is the first time he is changing teams since he went from the University of Michigan to the



Patriots, so getting to know a new 90-man roster will take time. But Brady evidently is off to a good start.

It will be interesting to see

if Brady makes any demands should he struggle to click with the Bucs. Or if he decides that he wants Antonio Brown in the fold. But for the time

being, it seems that he is just focused on getting to know his teammates as he prepares for the biggest change of his professional career.

^{AP}
New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) delivers a pass during an NFL football training camp, Thursday, June 6, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Hoyer moves to Pats

Meanwhile, the man who was switched places with Jimmy Garoppolo now has a chance to succeed Brady.

Brian Hoyer agreed to a one-year contract with the New England Patriots on Sunday, his agent, Joel Linta, said. That will come with \$2 million guaranteed and a chance to compete for the Patriots' now-vacant starting quarterback job.

Linta said that was enough for Hoyer to turn down more money elsewhere.

Replacing a probable Hall of Famer is an unenviable task, but Hoyer's last extended look as a starter won't inspire much confidence. The 49ers signed Hoyer in Kyle Shanahan and John Lynch's first offseason as coach and general manager, and he started the first six games in 2017.

San Francisco didn't win any of those games, while Hoyer completed just over 58 percent of his passes and threw for 1,245 yards, four touchdowns and four interceptions. Hoyer ultimately was released on Halloween 2017, a day after the 49ers acquired Garoppolo in a trade. The San Diego State product signed with the Patriots a day later.

Hoyer, it's worth noting, succeeded Colin Kaepernick as the 49ers' starter in 2017—a year after Kaepernick's protest of racial inequality and police brutality—when Shanahan and Lynch deemed the QB wasn't a fit for his offense going into the season. Kaepernick opted out of his contract going into the 2017 offseason

and hasn't been signed since.

The 2017 49ers won't be confused with the 2019 iteration that is fresh off a Super Bowl appearance, but even Brady (as a 42-year-old) struggled with a lack of offensive weapons in New England last season. Hoyer hasn't proven to be greater than the sum of the offensive parts around him in his 11-year NFL career, but this will be his third stint with the Patriots.

New England's QB competition between Hoyer, Jarrett Stidham and Cody Kessler will be the greatest test of Bill Belichick's "Patriot Way" since his tenure in Foxboro began two decades ago. There still is time in the offseason for the Patriots to bring in another quarterback, but the coronavirus-forced pause on physicals seems to have cooled the market for players with an injury history, such as Carolina Panthers signal-caller Cam Newton.

Hoyer's Patriots will be better than his 49ers. He'll also be three years older, and his most recent extensive experience surely won't make him the frontrunner to replace Brady.

In other developments, two people with direct knowledge of the contract say the New York Jets and cornerback Pierre Desir have agreed to terms on a deal.

The 29-year-old defensive back spent the past three seasons with Indianapolis, where he had 161 total tackles, five interceptions, 26 passes defensed, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery in 37 games, including 29 starts.

Desir signed a three-year contract worth \$22.5 million—including \$12 million guaranteed—last March, but the Colts saved nearly \$7 million on their salary cap for this season by releasing him.

Tennessee Titans offensive tackle Dennis Kelly has been hunkered down with his family in the Indianapolis area since the birth of his third daughter a month ago.

He has been self-isolating before the spread of COVID-19, the coronavirus.

"We're already kind of in a self-imposed quarantine on our own, because with a new baby and not having shots and everything like that, especially with it being winter and how bad the flu was this year," said Kelly, one of hundreds of NFL players who are self-isolating while the league sorts through what's next. "We're in week four already of kind of being separated. For most of society, obviously it's even more extreme."

Though it's the offseason

Self-isolated NFL players engage in group chats, workouts

for the NFL, the need for social distancing and self-isolation by the pro football community was driven home when New Orleans coach Sean Payton announced Thursday he was the first in the NFL to test positive.

NFL players usually use this time to prepare for offseason programs that traditionally start in April. With those programs delayed indefinitely, players are trying to stay connected with teammates via group chats and social media. Workouts also are an issue with more gyms closing, though some players have their own equipment at home.

New Orleans Saints long snapper Zach Wood, who

signed an extension just before free agency started, lives in an apartment and has been staying away from gyms in Dallas. His workouts involve push-ups, pull-ups and squats and now more running outside.

"I'm just like a sprinkler throwing sweat everywhere, which is disgusting, so I guess I better start going outside and finding ways to do something in the park or on a trail or something because the apartment is just not having it for me," Wood said.

Ryan Tannehill, who received a four-year, \$118 million contract from Tennessee, normally would be busy lining up workouts with wide receivers to start honing their chemistry and timing.

"Guys getting on planes right now is not a good situation," said Tannehill, who is also doing some personal training while sticking around the house with his two children and enjoying more home-cooking by his wife, Lauren. "... Hopefully as a nation we can kind of get this thing turned around, flatten the curve sort to speak, and start moving forward."

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people

recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

NFL free agency business has been one of the few things close to normal in the sports world in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cornerback A.J. Bouye is one of the players facing the challenge of changing teams during this isolation period after being traded by Jacksonville to Denver. The group chats that Tannehill and Kelly use to stay in touch aren't easy for a player with new teammates.

Taking care of his family is at the top of Bouye's to-do list. His daughters are in a different state, and Bouye, who's continuing to work out at his home gym in Atlanta, also focused is on his parents and other relatives.

"Once we get everything situated with that, we just have to monitor when we could go back," Bouye said. "One thing about it, I'm just focused more on working out also. I have everything set up at home. My trainer is with me, so I'm definitely good with that."

Titans center Ben Jones also has been working out at home. In video shared on social media Friday by Tennessee, Jones could be seen throwing a medicine ball at the wall beside his garage and lifting weights outdoors.

NBA teams prepared for reduced pre-draft process



NEW YORK—While the NBA season remains on pause, teams are continuing their preparations for the 2020 NBA Draft. This time around those preparations have a very different feel.

ESPN's Jonathan Givony reported that teams are prepared to go into the draft lacking some of the prep they've historically done. Teams are prepared to draft players without the benefit of a pre-draft visit or workout. In addition, there are fears than the annual NBA Draft combine could be cancelled. The combine is where teams often get physical measurements and athletic test results.

The combine is also where teams often have their first, and sometimes only, one-on-one meetings with prospects.

Early Entry candidates have until Sunday, April 26 to declare for the draft. That date could be moved back by the NBA. The NCAA has a withdrawal deadline of Wednesday, June 3 for players wishing to return to college. Pushing back that date is also expected to be discussed.

One NBA team executive quoted in Givony's article said "The draft is the last thing on their list. Revenue drivers will come first, and then we'll see what happens with the draft after all that gets figured out."

Teams who are known to have solid scouting departments that get their work done early, may have an advantage in this year's draft. Teams who rely on conference tournaments and the NCAA Tournament, along with the pre-draft process, to catch up could struggle. With a draft class that isn't deep on surefire NBA players, that could make a huge difference on landing talent.

Meanwhile, Jeff Sheppard works as a financial planner now, more than two decades removed from the time he helped Kentucky win the NCAA Tournament.

Yet he still gets asked regularly about his role in the Wildcats' 1998 national championship.

"They remember where they were when they watched



Duke guard Tre Jones (3) shoots over Syracuse forward Bourama Sidibe (34) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Syracuse, N.Y., Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020. Jones will declare for the NBA draft, according to reports.

cording to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

Jones, the reigning ACC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, confirmed the news on social media on Saturday.

Jones averaged 16.2 points, 6.4 assists and 4.2 rebounds in his sophomore campaign for the Blue Devils, playing more than 35 minutes per game. He shot better than 42% from the field and 36% from behind the arc, too, both significant upgrades from his freshman season.

No. 11 Duke finished the year with a 25-6 record when the ACC and NCAA tournaments were canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Jones is widely expected to be a first-round pick in the upcoming draft. His older brother Tyus, who also played for Duke, was selected with the No. 24 overall pick in the 2015 draft. He spent his first four seasons in the league with the Minnesota Timberwolves, and is currently with the Memphis Grizzlies.

the championship game and that kind of thing," said Sheppard, who works in Lexington and lives about an hour away in London, Kentucky. "It's definitely a lot of fun."

Sheppard went undrafted after that glorious run and played part of one NBA season with the Atlanta Hawks in 1998-99 before playing a few years in Italy. He is not the only most outstanding player from a Final Four to play fewer than 20 games in the NBA.

In Sheppard's case, he decided to redshirt the 1996-97 season as a senior at the prompting of Rick Pitino, Kentucky's coach at the time. Sheppard was stuck behind future NBA lottery picks Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer at shooting guard.

"I had a choice," Sheppard said. "I could battle it out for playing time with those guys or redshirt, let them be the featured players in '97 and go on

to the pros, and then it was my spot to lose in '98."

The wait proved worthwhile. As a fifth-year senior, Sheppard helped that 1997-98 team win a national title for Tubby Smith, who took over when Pitino left for the Boston Celtics job.

Sheppard scored 27 points in an 86-85 overtime semifinal victory over Stanford and 16 more in the 78-69 championship game triumph over Utah.

Staying in school an extra year meant Sheppard entered the draft at the relatively advanced age of 23, though he doesn't think that played much of a factor in his short pro career.

"A 23-year-old going into the draft (now), it's almost a disadvantage," said Sheppard, who also was part of Kentucky's 1996 championship team. "It wasn't quite that way back then. You had a lot of guys who were four-year guys going into the NBA. I

was a 6-3, 185-pound shooting guard. I was good in a lot of areas. I don't know if I was great in any area."

In other developments, Tre

Jones' time at Duke has come to an end.

After two seasons with the Blue Devils, Jones will declare for the NBA draft, ac-

Rivals expect Pelicans to match offer for Ingram

NEW ORLEANS—Brandon Ingram could be the best player listening to offers in NBA free agency whenever it takes place.

There are bigger names and better players available, but they are not free agents looking to test the market—Anthony Davis will re-sign with the Lakers, Andre Drummond is expected to opt-in with the Cavaliers, same with Gordon Hayward in Boston, and the list goes on.

Ingram might listen to offers, and after a breakout All-Star season there will be teams interested. However, Ingram is a restricted free agent and other teams expect the Pelicans to match any

offer, Chris Fedor writes at Cleveland.com.

The one restricted free agent with appeal is Brandon Ingram. Multiple sources expect the New Orleans Pelicans to match any offer sheet.

While this is what every team with a coveted restricted free agent says (they are trying to drive away competitors), this also is exactly what people watching the league expect. Ingram was an All-Star this season averaging 24.3 points and 6.3 rebounds a game, displaying a new and improved jump shot, plus he fit well next to Zion Williamson. With that the Pelicans are expected to max him out, a contract that still would be

tradable in a year or two—if needed—because he can still get buckets.

There will be buzz about teams being interested in Ingram—because they are. That said, the leaks may be more about a team showing its fan base it is trying more than expecting to land Ingram.

The Pelicans are not letting him go.

Meanwhile, Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert's coronavirus symptoms have progressed into unusual territory, more than a week after his positive test that precipitated the shutdown of major North American sports.

Gobert tweeted Sunday that he has lost his sense of smell due to the coronavirus.

OPEN

From Page 24

22, and over Kanoa Football Club (1) last March 7.

Costales scored in three of TanHoldings' four games, posting three goals in their 4-1 triumph over Shirley's last Feb. 29, two in their 9-0 victory over Kanoa last Feb. 22, and one in their 8-5 win over Matansa last March 14. Chavez, on the other hand, got three goals versus Kanoa, two

against Matansa, and one in their 2-1 win over MP United.

Camacho did not hit the board in Matansa's season-opening game, but delivered in the next three, logging three in their 5-5 draw against Kanoa last Feb. 29, one in their 9-0 win over Shirley's last March 7, and two in their 5-8 loss to TanHoldings last March 14.

Meanwhile, Kanoa's Paul Lizama, MP United's William Sosa, and Matansa's

Nolan Ngewakl and Jerome Mettao are also in the running for the Golden Boot award. Lizama and Ngewakl have gained five goals apiece, while Sosa and Mettao have earned four each.

Five players have collected three goals each, six have two apiece, while seven others (with one goal each) complete the list of players who have scored this season in the division, which has a double-round robin format.

NATIONS

From Page 24

Fiji. Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Conatsu Kaga played for the champion team, which defeated the Steffi Carruthers-led Samoa in the finals, 2-1.

Schorr and Woo also saw action in the inaugural tournament, teaming up with Ken Song and the squad finished in the Top 10 in the men's field, which Tahiti topped.

Song and Schorr then returned to Fiji last year to suit up for the CNMI anew in the Nations Cup and battled Samoa, the Fiji Development Team, and Kiribati.

Before being selected to play for the Commonwealth in the Nations Cup this year, Schorr represented the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa and won a gold medal in the team event and silver in the men's doubles. Cruz was

also part of the CNMI National Team, while Woo was a member of the junior squad that played in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Meanwhile, Woo is also scheduled to train at the OTF/ITF Regional Training Facility in Fiji, but with the current COVID-19 crisis and the uncertainties that goes with it, he may have to pass on the chance this summer.



Tokyo Olympics
seem sure to
happen, in 2021

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady makes one
request after
joining Bucs

PAGE 22



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020

Open race for Golden Boot



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Kaithlyn Chavez, center, seen here battling possession against a Kanoa Football Club player at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, is in the race for the Golden Boot award in the co-ed division of the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

There's a close battle for the Golden Boot award after the first round of the co-ed U13 competition in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United Football Club's Ian Song, after four matches, has collected seven goals to lead the division. How-

ever, not far behind Song are three players—TanHoldings' Mark Ryan Costales and Andrei Kaithlynn Chavez and

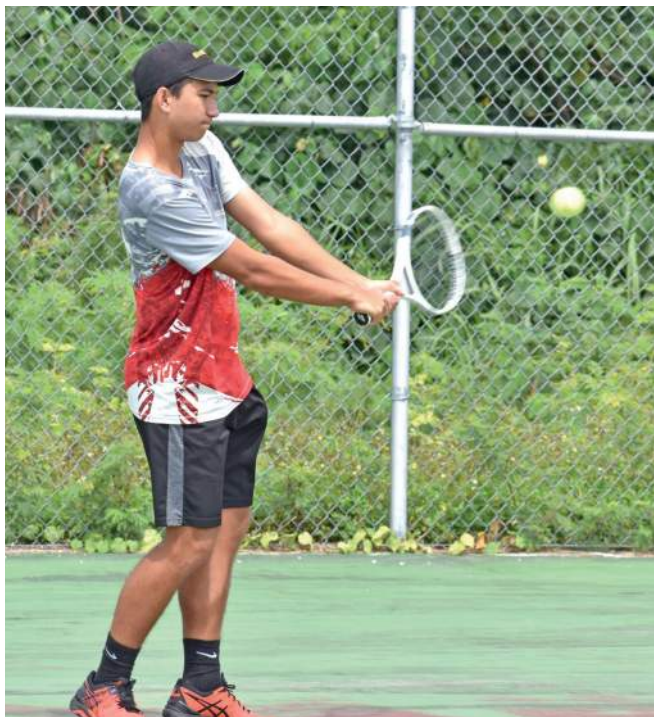
Matansa's Justin Camacho, who have recorded six apiece.

Song took the shaky lead after getting three goals in their 9-1 win over Shirley's Football Club last March 14, a week before the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association



suspended the season, indefinitely, due to the COVID-19 crisis. The MP United striker's four other goals were registered in their game against TanHoldings (1) last Feb. 15, versus Matansa (2) last Feb.

See OPEN on Page 23



Nations Cup canceled

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tennis players Robbie Schorr, Bobby Cruz, and Jimin Woo may have to wait for a while before getting another chance to represent the CNMI, as this year's Nations Cup has been canceled.

Schorr, Cruz, and Woo were selected to don the colors of the Commonwealth anew



and compete in the 2020 Nations Cup that was originally scheduled from June 1 to 6 in Samoa. However, this year's edition of the event that features 18 out of the 20-member countries of the Oceania Tennis Federation has been shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It would have been the third time that the CNMI will be participating in the elite tournament. In 2018, the Commonwealth made history in the OTF after ruling the women's division of the first Nations Cup, which took place in

See NATIONS on Page 23

670 Sonics suspend training, activities

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

our mind so we will continue our basketball activities when it is safe to do so,"

Ajoste added.



The 670 Sonics Basketball Club put on hold their training sessions, indefinitely, and have called on their members to follow safety measures being implemented by the CNMI government to prevent the potential spread of coronavirus.

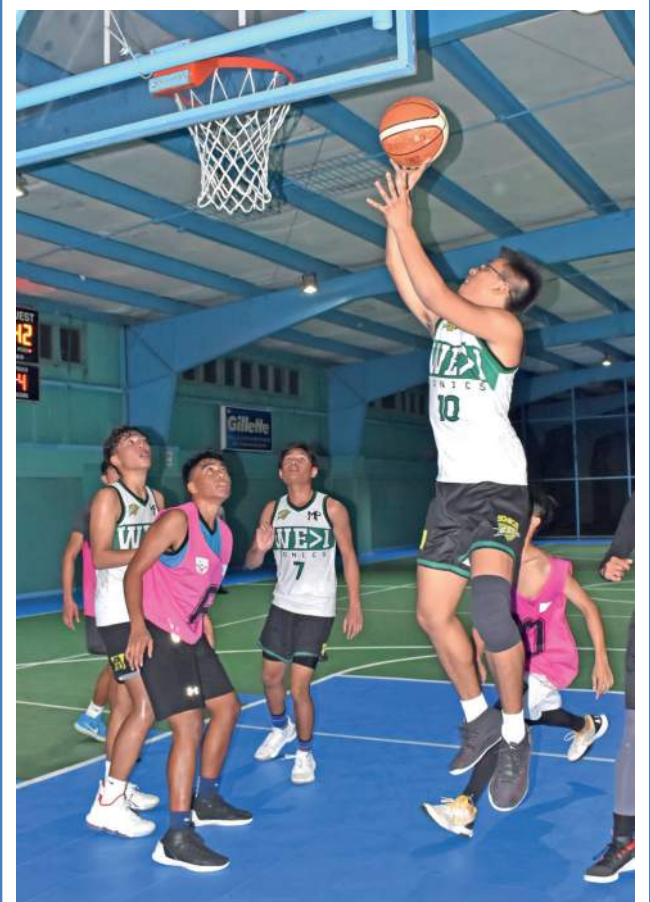
"This is a difficult moment for the world and our hearts go out to all those affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. During this crisis, the safety of our community is our top priority. At 670 Sonics Basketball Club, we are taking precautionary measures to do our part in reducing the spread of COVID-19," Sonics coach Omar Ajoste said in a letter sent to the club players and officials last Sunday.

"We will not risk anyone's health just to play basketball or do other activities. Your safety and well-being is in

The Sonics just started their training session late last month with majority of their players competing in local leagues before matches were suspended, while some saw action for high school teams in the 2019-2020 Public School System Inter-scholastic Boys High School Basketball League.

The group used to train from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the San Antonio court from Monday to Thursday and from 6am to 9:30am every Sunday at other available courts (Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, San Antonio, Laly 4, and Civic Center Court).

The Sonics, in the past months, had also launched cleanup drives through the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify Marianas program.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 670 Sonics' Christian Bravo unloads a point-blank shot during their game against the Rollers in a local tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium early this year. Bravo and his teammates have stopped practicing in response to the call to observe social distancing amid the COVID-19 crisis.